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THE HISTORY
OF THE
Woman's Club Movement
IN AMERICA



By MRS. J. C. CROLY



THE HISTORY
OF THE
Woman's Club Movement
IN AMERICA



By MRS. J. C. CROLY
(JENNIE JUNE)

Honorary Vice-President, General Federation of Woman's Clubs;
Honorary President of Sorosis; Honorary President of New York State Federation
of Women's Clubs and Societies

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JENNIE CUNNINGHAM CROLY



Dedication

This book has been a labor
of love; and it is lovingly
dedicated to the

Twentieth Century Woman

by one who has seen, and shared
in the struggles, hopes, and
aspirations of the woman
of the Nineteenth Century.

J. C. Croly

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J. C. Cady

PREFACE

THE need and the value of this history are to be found in the natural character of the woman's club development, as the outgrowth of national conditions, and the cumulative evidence of the woman's ideals and strongest tendencies.

The priceless boon that America gave to women was freedom and opportunity. Up to the last half, it might be said quarter, of the present century, small provision had been made for the education and training of the woman beyond the rudimentary lines. As late as the early seventies no college training was possible to a girl in New York city and many other parts of this country, except under precisely the same conditions as those which existed in Russia; viz., by the special grace of some professor endowed with the human spirit, such as Professor Newberry of Columbia in New York or Dr. Grüber of St. Petersburg.

The club, from the beginning, accomplished two purposes. It provided a means for the acquisition of knowledge, the training of power; and the working of a spirit of human solidarity, a comprehension of the continuity of life: its universal character and interdependence. It is not too much to say that this aspect changed the whole point of view of the woman who came under its influence. Her ideals were elevated, her trust in eternal goodness and its purpose strengthened, and her own possibilities as a social and intellectual force, brought out and gradually moulded into form.

The acceptance of the club as a means of education and development was almost simultaneous throughout the country. Everywhere groups of women were found who eagerly seized the idea and shaped it according to their own conditions and needs. Everywhere also the path has broadened, and larger groups of women have and are working with the same eager enthusiasm toward the still larger life, the greater unity, the "all in all."

THE HISTORIAN.

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INTRODUCTION

NO woman in the country is so well qualified as is Mrs. Croly to write the history of the woman's club movement in the United States; for from its inception Mrs. Croly has been one of the prominent promoters, and to her far-sighted wisdom and spiritual perception of the trend of the clubs was due the fact that Sorosis issued the invitation to the clubs to form a General Federation which should embrace all the clubs of the country. The first president of the General Federation, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, was appointed by the Board of Directors to write a history of the General Federation and the causes which led to its formation; but her death, in February, 1895, put an end to the plan. Mrs. Croly was ultimately selected by the Council of the General Federation to write the history, which had originally been her suggestion. The plan of Mrs. Croly's history is wider in scope than was that contemplated by Mrs. Brown, summarizing the causes which led up to the club movement and giving the local club life more in detail.

Up to 1894 the General Federation was an organization of literary clubs. Some were already formed into departments, but in the main the clubs were for self-culture; and while the sympathy of the members was broad, and in many cases inclusive of other movements in education and philanthropy, yet the chief characteristic was self-improvement. In 1894 a new form of organization reported at the biennial which was held in Philadelphia; the State Federation for the first time appeared as auxiliary to the General Federation. Five States were organized; they were Maine, Iowa, Massachusetts, the Social Science Federation of Kansas, and Utah. It is a significant fact in connection with the State Federations that the five States first to organize represented no one section of the country, but were widely separated, thus proving that it was a general need, and not one of any special locality, which operated to form the State Federations. At the biennial in 1894 the feeling was very generally expressed that the General Federation covered too large a territory, and would ultimately represent too many interests to be satisfactory in its then form of organization. The delegates of the clubs who had been present at the first biennial recognized that these meetings were suggestive and inspiring; but the fact remained that only about one-half of the

clubs in membership could possibly send delegates, and therefore the influence of the General Federation would of necessity be limited.

No great organization can hold together without some definite philosophy put into action, and this lack was the weakness at that time of the General Federation. The immense territory to be covered rendered it impossible to formulate any system of practical work which would be acceptable to all the States represented, as the needs of each State differed in character; the policy, therefore, of the General Federation was to encourage the formation of the State Federations.

During the four years of my presidency twenty-three State Federations have been organized, as follows: New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Delaware, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Minnesota, North Dakota, Missouri, Arkansas, Kentucky, Tennessee, Georgia, Nebraska, Colorado, Washington, and the District of Columbia. Three State Federations have been organized, namely, Texas, Alabama, and Florida, which have not yet joined the General Federation. These State Federations, however, are a component part of the great federation movement.

The State Federations have in each case adopted, immediately on their formation, a special line of work, always educational in character, and embracing education from the kindergarten to the university, as represented in the State systems—public and travelling libraries, art interchanges, village and town improvement associations, and constructive legislation.

The woman's club movement represents a part of the great popular educational movement which is sweeping like a tidal wave over the country, and of which Chautauqua, summer schools, night schools, university extension, etc., are all manifestations. The club movement also represents the tendency to associated effort. I myself am not of the opinion that the individual is merged in the association. It is in the association that the individual discovers his personality, which he contributes for the good of the whole.

The philosophy of the great club movement is constructive and educational, and its methods of work are non-aggressive. It is therefore exemplifying the new spirit which is positive.

The democracy also of the federation is having a great effect in the reorganization of social life. In no place in the world can a woman so easily come to the front as in a large woman's club. It is an interesting thing to watch the career of a natural-born leader in one of the large clubs. No matter how unheralded was her entrance into the club, by some strange fate the right women are usually found occupying the prominent positions. Of course the club members may occasionally make a mistake, and a self-seeking

woman, by using political methods and by advertising herself, may secure what should only be accorded to high personal character and talent. But it is not for long, and almost more than any other organization does the club form a just estimate of personal character. Rotation in office prevails in the clubs, in the State Federations, and in the General Federation, and thus no class of office-holders has been created, and the federation is not limited by the individuality of any small number of leaders.

Reciprocity is the foundation on which is built this great organization; the growing conviction that the giving and receiving are one, and that no one person should be placed in the position of always giving or of always receiving, but that each one, according to her ability and opportunity, should be in a position to receive and to give. Thus the harmony of life is preserved, and the tremendous interdependence of modern society emphasizes this truth.

The club is the postgraduate for the individual woman. The State Federation trains the clubs as citizens, and arouses the sense of the community life, while the General Federation emphasizes the national life and brings the States together as a harmonious whole, while the biennials should aim to be a clearing-house for national and vital interests.

It is the history of this organization which Mrs. Croly has prepared, and she has written it in the true spirit which should, and I sincerely believe does, characterize the work of the clubs—that of love and service and devotion of the individual for the good of the whole.

Surely any work performed in such a spirit of self-forgetfulness is of permanent value, and the organization for which it is accomplished should testify its grateful acknowledgments.

ELLEN M. HENROTIN.

THE HISTORY
OF THE
Woman's Club Movement
IN AMERICA

Beginnings of Organization

WOMEN IN RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATION

WHEN the history of the nineteenth century comes to be written, women will appear as organizers, and leaders of great organized movements among their own sex for the first time in the history of the world.

The world of to-day, both for men and women, is a different world from that which furnished the outlook for the men and women of a hundred years ago. Science, invention, have changed its material aspects; and while retiring some individual activities and occupations, have created new fields of industry that are rapidly changing the face of the world, and making new demands upon strength and energy.

The world which man has conquered, and is conquering, is no longer the purely physical. He is working now toward the discovery and control of the powers of the air, and has already harnessed some of them to do his bidding. The succession of great events and discoveries will mark this century as an epoch in the world's history, and is responsible for economic changes which create social disturbance, and to which both men and women must adjust themselves often without knowing the why or wherefore of that which is so different from what has been. It is one of the paradoxes in human nature that women, while being made responsible for social conditions, have been condemned to individual isolation.

This has been largely the result of general physical differentiation and the dependence that grew out of it, and, secondarily, the long ages required to produce settled social conditions and a reversion of that great unwritten law of kings and men, that might made right.

It is true there was a time, some traditions of which are still preserved among the Indian tribes of North America, when the woman possessed controlling influence and power. This matriarchal or mother age passed with the primitive period in which the energies of men were absorbed in hunting and fighting. It was a tribal effort through tribal women to formulate and give importance to family life, and it must have been accepted, and more or

less sanctioned, by the men. This tribal leadership, at first domestic and social, disappeared with the development of military leaders, the acquisition of military power, and the centralization of property in lands, houses, and personal belongings, that required constant and effective methods of protection and defence. Instances are not wanting of heroic women of those early days who were capable of holding and defending person and property against aggression and warfare. But the logic of events was strong then, as now, and the destiny of the woman was not that of military supremacy.

The first step in associated life taken by women was a simple protest against the use and abuse of power on the part of men, wrought up by fear or loathing to the point of desperation. Women, usually of rank, fled to the desert with one or two companions, and encountered unheard-of hardships rather than submit to the fate to which they had been condemned by father, brother, or some other man who could exercise authority over them. The first church sisterhood grew out of such beginnings, and gradually obtained the sanction of the church. A recent remarkable work, "Women in Monasticism," shows how wide and powerful the system of religious sisterhoods had become as early as the fifth century, and traces its growing strength and enlargement until its decline, which was coeval with the Reformation.

The strength of this extraordinary development lay in the fact that it furnished women with a vocation; it gave employment to faculty. The sisterhoods of the convents and monasteries were the nurses, the teachers, the students, the caretakers of the poor and the guardians of the orphaned rich. The Fathers of the church, St. Jerome, St. Chrysostom, St. Augustine, all bear witness to the high character of these sisterhoods, and to their individual members, to their virtues and lives of self-sacrificing devotion. Many of these women became learned by the exercise of memory alone, as they had no books. Many enriched their convents with manuscript books, the result of lives of painstaking labor. The Beguines, who founded hospitals and schools, were the best educated women of their day (the eleventh century). They read Tacitus and Virgil in the original, and were skilled in medicine. In those days disease often took loathsome forms, and only women whose lives were consecrated to self-denying labor could have been the patient ministers to the diseased poor.

This is all the more noteworthy because the idea of vocation was not the early incentive to monastic life. It was sought as a refuge; it developed into a vocation; and it is a matter of interest to women to-day that these spontaneous avocations growing out of an enforced life were inspired by love of well-doing, desire for study, the acquisition of knowledge, its distribution, and the ever-ready spirit of helpfulness, at the sacrifice of every personal indulgence.

Naturally, the monastic life of women was controlled by the church and could only have continued to exist by permission.

A Spanish lady of rank who had befriended Ignatius Loyola as a young student at Barcelona, attracted by the odor of sanctity and scholarship which attached itself to the order he founded, gained reluctant permission to establish (1545) an order of Jesuitesses, subject to the same strict rule and discipline. This was the beginning of a strictly woman's Jesuit "college," which flourished notwithstanding all the efforts Loyola himself made to get rid of it and the restrictions put upon it. Many noble ladies joined it, and it became the foundation of a number of houses of the same name and character, extending into Flanders and England, when, without cause, except fear, perhaps, of their extent and influence, they were finally suppressed by a bull of Pope Urban VIII., bearing date January 13, 1630. This order of Jesuitesses existed for nearly a century. Their colleges were scholastic, and had given rise to preparatory schools, when they were summarily suppressed because of their independent life.

Had this order continued to exist it might have gained an educational ascendancy throughout Europe which even the strong wave of the Reformation would have found it hard to overcome.

But the convents, and monasteries generally, suffered at this time from the abuses which had crept into the church and the rage of power which possessed its prelates.

The influence was mischievous also from a social and domestic point of view; from the sanctity and superiority attached to those who ignored natural ties and duties, lowering the social and domestic standard, and setting the nun's habit above the woman, the wife and the mother. Yet nature had asserted itself even in the convent. The motherhood in the monastic woman made her the mother, the caretaker, the nurse, the teacher, and the helper of all those who needed maternal care, while condemning and ignoring its common aspects and place in every-day life.

This absence of domestic ties was not, however, obligatory upon all religious sisterhoods. An interesting story of the "First Council of Women," told by *Madame Lientier* at the Congress of Women in Paris in 1889, bears upon this point.

The monastic school out of which the Council grew was founded, in the early part of the seventh century, by *Iduberge*, wife of Pepin, mayor under the Frankish kings.

Iduberge cleared a space in a forest, and built a house for the education and religious consecration (if they desired it) of the daughters of nobles, her daughter Gertrude becoming the abbess. No vow of celibacy was imposed. As long as they remained in the abbey they were obliged to con-

form to the rules of the house, but if they desired to marry they were free to leave. The *chanoinesses* of Nivelles spent their morning in religious duties, but the rest of the day they were at liberty to mix with the outer world. The abbess alone took upon herself the vow of perpetual virginity. A hundred and seventy years passed away after the death of Gertrude; the abbey had grown in power, had gathered around itself a town with gates and towers and fortifications, but was independent of the French government, being under the sole rule of the abbess, who was called the "Princess."

This independence excited the jealousy of the church, and in May, 820, Nivelles received a visit from Valcand, the reigning bishop of Liege. He was received by the lady abbess; in the habit of her order, a cross of gold in her hand, and mounted on a white horse, she rode at the head of the procession that marched to meet him. Young girls of noble birth, clad in long white gowns trimmed with ermine, and mounted on palfreys, followed their abbess, and behind them the town authorities, feudal lords, and administrators of justice.

At the same time Valcand entered the town with every honor and courtesy due to his rank. He held a solemn service, and after having given the benediction, he rose again in the pulpit and addressed the *chanoinesses*. He declared that it had been decided by the Council of Aix-la-Chapelle that he should be sent to Nivelles to enforce the rule of St. Benoit, which must be followed by all religious bodies, this rule being that all the devotees of Nivelles were required to take upon themselves the vow of perpetual virginity, to acknowledge themselves dependent upon their bishop in all secular matters, and finally to yield up to Valcand all temporal power at Nivelles.

This solemn declaration was received in dead silence. For some moments no one moved or spoke, but a low murmur swept over the young sisters of Nivelles Abbey. Then the lady abbess, followed by her *chanoinesses*, rose and advanced to the rails of the choir stalls. The abbess Hiltrude, daughter of Lyderik II., sovereign of Flanders under the emperor, then between thirty-five and forty years of age, was beautiful, of that calm, grave type which speaks of a quiet, well-regulated life.

"In the name of the Cloister of St. Gertrude," she said, "we protest against any interference in the temporal power of this government. We claim the right of taking to ourselves husbands when it seems right to us so to do. We are therefore resolved to follow the rules of our patron saint, as we always have done heretofore, and if this protest is insufficient we will present our appeal to our Holy Father the Pope."

The bishop declared that he would maintain the rule given by the Council of Aix, and then, descending from the pulpit, he ordered his people to follow him at once out of Nivelles, refusing to join in any of the festivities prepared in his honor.

Hiltrude now took things seriously into her own hands, leaving nothing undone to secure the success of her appeal. She sent a courier to the Pope, and another to Louis le Debonaire; but the wise abbess took yet further precautions: she at once organized a council at Nivelles of all the abbesses under the French empire, requiring silence from them, and assuring them of security in the town. The council could not be brought together for a year, but on the 1st of May, 821, Hiltrude inaugurated her "Concile de Femmes."

She took advantage of the marriage of the Comte d'Albion with Regina, which was to take place at the abbey. Regina was a *chanoinesse*; and it was the custom when a member of the circle at the abbey married that the marriage should be solemnized at Nivelles. Fifteen titled abbesses, all of aristocratic lineage, arrived with imposing suites. The council was a short one. They approved of all that Hiltrude had done and signed the appeal. The document, written, signed, and sealed by all the abbesses present, was immediately sent to Rome, and to Valcand himself. Meanwhile the Pope and the king, who were much perplexed, and the bishop, who was completely baffled by the logic, strength, and force of the appeal of the "Concile," were obliged to withdraw opposition, and the *chanoinesses* were left in peace to marry, or not to marry, as they pleased.

The ancient order of deaconesses imposed no vow, yet it was co-existent with the early church and accepted by many of the fathers as part of the apostolic order. This position was strengthened by the high character of the women, many of them widows, or unprotected women, whom death or some other calamity had freed from natural ties.

Ancient church history is full of the records of courage, devotion, and self-sacrifice on the part of these women, who were generally of high birth, but gave themselves to poverty and the most menial offices, and left names which have perpetuated the sanctity of their order, and come down to the present day as types of good women.

The ceremonies used in the ordination of a deaconess were precisely the same as those used for a deacon. The deaconesses were not cloistered. They lived at home with children or relatives. But they wore a distinctive dress and had their place in the church with the clergy. The "golden age" of the order is said to have been immediately following the apostolic era, before the spirit of monasticism had destroyed or limited activities and shut off sympathy with the outside world.

The royal and imperial order of the Hadrashin in Prague, Germany, is the most imposing relic remaining of the religious orders of women, though not the most numerous. There are about forty chapters still in existence of this ancient order, with a royal residence at Prague. The abbess possessed

the right to crown the queen at coronation ceremonies, and exercised it as late as 1836, wearing all the magnificent insignia of her rank in the order.

A more numerous order of consecrated women, presided over and governed by one "mother-general," is that of St. Joseph de Cluny. This was founded by a woman, Madame Javonbey, in the beginning of the present century, about ninety years ago. It has one hundred and twenty-eight houses in France, and two in the United States. It has others in South America, one in Italy, several in the West Indies, and some in Africa.

All its property is in community, and its membership, about six thousand women, teach in its schools, and care for the sick poor in hospitals and in their homes. Two hundred are assigned to the care of the insane by the French government.

The mother-general administrates from the mother-house (*maison mère*) at Paris. She has two assistants, and a council of six sisters. Under the mother-general there are mother-superiors, one to each estate, administering and governing it, but under *the* superior mother at Paris. These lesser governing women send in weekly reports to the home convent at Paris, giving brief accounts of transactions and events, such as the entrance of pupils, the purchase of land, an extra dole of food to the poor, the death of a member, and the like. They are a prosperous, working sisterhood, and have preserved the integrity and independence of their beginning.

It was the spirit of protest against church and monastic abuses embodied in Martin Luther which broke up the monastic system for both men and women. Doubtless also it had outlived its usefulness in any large or general sense. A more settled social and domestic life was becoming possible through the development of trades and industries, while the domestic virtues in women began to acquire a value and furnish guarantees to the State.

The discovery of printing gave a tremendous impulse to the spread of civilizing and educational influences, to the multiplication of schools and the desire for knowledge. It was the dawn of intellectual freedom, and the school of the people was the open door to it.

Spiritual freedom had to wait longer. It waited the unfolding of the woman.

At the beginning of this century she was still under the dominion of the church and its leaders, and her efforts were controlled by sects and doctrines.

The first associated work of women in this country, and in this century, was still religious and philanthropic.

The order of the "Sisters of Charity" in America owes its origin to a young and beautiful New York woman, Elizabeth Seton, who was born in 1774, married at twenty, but lost her husband by death in a very few years.

Obliged to support herself, she opened a school in Baltimore. But her



ELIZABETH SETON

Born Aug. 28. 1774.

Died Jan. 4. 1821.

tendency was toward the devoted life of a *religieuse*, and the gift of a foundation fund enabled her to gratify this strong desire. She assumed the conventual habit, and opened a convent school on July 30, 1809, in Emmettsburg, of which she became mother-superior. An orphanage was afterward incorporated with it. The character of "Mother" Seton was considered "saintly" by Protestants and Roman Catholics alike. She died at her post in 1821, after a life the last half of which was entirely spent in self-denying work. Mrs. Seton was exceedingly lovely as a young woman, and her sweet, serene face and presence, as she grew older, was said to exert a magical influence upon all who came in contact with her. This was particularly seen in her care of the sick and in dealing with turbulent spirits; they came immediately under her influence without any effort on her part.

The first ten years of the present century saw the beginning of a number of religious societies of women organized to create funds and aid in church mission work. First among these were the "cent" societies, 1801 and 1804, and later the Woman's Auxiliaries to the Board of Foreign Missions. These grew in size and strength, until in 1839 there were six hundred and eighty-eight of these societies. But, unfortunately, their limited and purely subjective character afforded small basis for the wider growth necessary to perpetuity, and they gradually declined, until in 1860 they had become nearly extinct.

A little later, 1864, the first independent "Union" of women missionary workers was formed in New York by Mrs. Doremus, and within a few years every denomination, beginning with the Congregationalist, had its organized Woman's Auxiliary to the American Board of Home and Foreign Missions.

The "Missionary Union" remains, however, the only independent society of women workers in this field, managing its own affairs, raising its own funds, and sending out its own missionaries, both men and women.

Its very existence has been a great strength to the Woman's Auxiliaries, stimulating them to independent action, and especially to the demand for a voice in the disposal of the large sums they raise and turn over into the treasury of the American Board.

The oldest purely women societies in this country were also started for missionary and church work. The first is the "Female Charitable Society" of Baldwinsville, N. Y., and still existent.

The object of the Baldwinsville society, as stated in the constitution, was "to obtain a more perfect view of the infinite excellence of the Christian religion in its own nature, the importance of making this religion the chief concern of our own hearts, the necessity of promoting it in our own families, and of diffusing it among our fellow sinners." A further object is, "to afford aid to religious institutions, and for the carrying out of this purpose a contribution of twelve and a half cents is required at every quarterly meeting."

Mrs. Jane Hamill presided at its first meeting, Rev. John Davenport opening it with prayer. Mrs. Hamill was still the presiding officer at its jubilee anniversary in 1867. At its seventy-eighth annual meeting Mrs. Payn Bigelow was elected president.

The "Piqua (Ohio) Female Bible Society" was founded in 1818. It consisted at first of nine women. In those early days the country was a wilderness. Other members were added later. It has had, in all, over nine hundred members. Mrs. Eliza Pettit was its presiding officer from 1840 until 1881, forty-one years. The daughters and the granddaughters are all made members by right of inheritance, and in several instances four generations have been represented at one time. It held its seventy-fifth anniversary in 1893, when all the descendants of the early members were notified and many were present. It has held a meeting on the first Monday afternoon of each month for seventy-eight years, and the records are preserved intact. The founder was Mrs. Rachel Johnston, wife of the Indian agent. It has sent over fifteen thousand dollars to the parent Bible Society in New York.

It should be remembered in this connection that, down to the last quarter of the present century, there was little sympathy with organizations of women not expressly religious, charitable, or intended to promote charitable objects.

"What is the object?" was the first question asked of any organization of women, and if it was not the making of garments, or the collection of funds for a church, or philanthropic purpose, it was considered unworthy attention, or injurious doubts were thrown upon its motives. In Germany, even yet, societies of women are not permitted, except such as have a distinctly religious, educational, or charitable object.

THE MORAL AWAKENING

The life of the world is continuous, morally and spiritually as well as materially. The individual sees it at short range, and in fragments; that is the reason why it so often seems dislocated and "out of joint." A thoughtful writer, Mrs. L. R. Zerbe, says: "When Goethe made his discovery of the unity of structure in organic life, he gave to the philosophers, who had long taught the value, the 'sovereignty' of the individual, a physiological argument against oppression and tyranny, and put the whole of creation on an equal footing."

The dignity of mind, and the right of the individual to its conscious use and possession, had already been clearly enunciated by Fichte, Herder, and others, who antedated Goethe. But Goethe went farther. He carried the discovery of the rights of the individual to its logical conclusion, which was, that the rights of every created thing should be given a hearing.

This was absolutely new doctrine. It brought women and children within the pale of humanity. It moralized and humanized nature itself, bringing birds, trees, flowers, all animate life into the "brotherhood" of creation.

The writings of Rousseau and Chateaubriand extended this idea, and Madame de Staël and Mary Wollstonecraft were the natural outgrowths of it. It may be said indeed to have been the actuating principle of modern literature, especially of modern English poetry, which vitalizes and idealizes children and nature. Whatever credit may be given to others, it should never be forgotten that to Goethe we owe the discovery of structural unity, that the cell of all organic life is the same.

The ideas that grew out of this discovery reached the higher, thinking class, and inspired the poets with a new enthusiasm for humanity long before it reached the masses. The French nobility were satiated with power. "Little Trianon" was the only reaction possible to a queen from the wearisome magnificence of Versailles, the gilded slavery of the court. The people recognized no sentiment of human sympathy in the so-called "whims" and "caprices" of the luxurious occupants of palaces, and maddened by countless wrongs, precipitated the French Revolution, which, it has been said, turned back the tide of progress for one hundred years.

From this human movement were developed all those reforms which have made the nineteenth century glorious—monumental in the history of progressive civilization. The abolition of slavery, the development of a spirit of mercy towards dumb animals, the recognition of the human rights of women and children—all these may be traced through many a winding way back to the German scientists and philosophers, who rediscovered the inner life while working from its outer side.

Yet, as in history there are no sporadic instances, no isolated facts, so this flower of our century, the recognition of the rights of all created things, with all that it involves, belongs to universal history. It is the product of the Reformation and the Renaissance, with roots which only the records of Rome and Greece and Egypt may discover.

The quickening of moral and spiritual life in our day, its accelerated movement, is not to be claimed by or traced to any one set of influences or propaganda. The awakening has been all along the line, and resulted in a new mental attitude towards the human life of the world, both as a whole

and in its various parts. Its great outcome is the learning to live *with* rather than for others.

This new view, this great advance of the moral and spiritual forces, addressed itself with signal significance to women. To those who were prepared it came not only as an awakening, but as emancipation—emancipation of the soul, freedom from the tyranny of tradition and prejudice, and the acquisition of an intellectual outlook; a spiritual liberty achieved so quietly as to be unnoticed, except by those who watched the progress of this bloodless revolution, and the falling away of the shackles that bind the spirit in its early and often painful effort to reach the light.

The broadening of human sympathy, the freedom of will, gave rise to a thousand new forms of activity; some of these an expansion of those which had previously existed; others opening new channels of communication; all looking towards wider fields of effort, a larger unity; a more complete realization of the eternal ideal: the Fatherhood of God, the motherhood of woman, the brotherhood of man.

Realization of this ideal brought a new conception of duty to the mind of the woman, unlocked the strong gates of theological and social tradition, and opened the windows of her soul to a new and more glorious world. The sense of duty is always strong in the woman. If she disregards it she never ceases to suffer. Her convictions of it have made her the most willing and joyful of martyrs, the most persistent and relentless of bigots, the most blind and devoted of partisans, the most faithful and believing of friends, and the only type out of which Nature could form the Mother.

This quality has made women the conservative force they are in the world, and gives all the more importance to the new departure, to the influences of the new sources of enlargement that have come into their lives.

Thus it became a necessity that the quickening of conscience, the widening of sympathy, the influence of aggregations, the stimulus to desires and ambitions, should be accompanied by corresponding growth in knowledge and a love beyond the narrow confines of family and church.

The cry of the woman emerging from a darkened past was "light, more light," and light was breaking. Gradually came the demand and the opportunity for education; for intellectual freedom, for women as well as for men; for cultivation of gifts and faculties.

The early half of the century was marked by a crusade for the cause of the better education of women as significant as that for the physical emancipation of the slave, and as devoted on the part of its leaders.

Simultaneous with this were two other movements—the anti-slavery agitation, inspired by the new enthusiasm for human rights and carried on largely by the Quakers of both sexes. The woman's rights movement was

the natural outgrowth of the individual sovereignty idea which the German philosophers had planted, and of which Mary Wollstonecraft was the first great woman exponent.

The keynote of the educational advance was struck by Emma Willard in 1821. She was followed by Mary Lyon, Mary Mortimer, and other brave women who dared to ask for women the cultivation of such faculties as they possessed, without let or hindrance. This demand has taken the century to develop and enforce. The work was so gradual that it is not yet, by any means, accomplished. Schools and colleges exist, but not yet equally, except here and there. They are, however, giving us an army of trained women who are bringing the force of knowledge to bear upon questions which have heretofore only enlisted sympathies.

Simultaneously with this creation of educational opportunity has arisen an eager seeking after knowledge on the part of women who have been debarred from its enjoyment or lacked opportunity for its acquisition. The knowledge sought was not that of a limited, sectional geography, or a mathematical quantity as taught in schools, but the knowledge of the history and development of races and peoples, of the laws and principles that underlie this development, and the place of the woman in this grand march of the ages.

The woman has been the one isolated fact in the universe. The outlook upon the world, the means of education, the opportunities for advancement, had all been denied her; and that "community of feeling and sense of distributive justice which grows out of coöperative interests in work and life, had found small opportunity for growth or activity."

The opportunity came with the awakening of the communal spirit, the recognition of the law of solidarity of interests, the sociologic advance which established a basis of equality among a wide diversity of conditions and individualities, and opportunities for all capable of using them. This great advance was not confined to a society or a neighborhood; it did not require subscription to a tenet, or the giving up of one's mode of life. It was simply the change of a point of view, the opening of a door, the stepping out into the freedom of the outer air, and the sweet sense of fellowship with the whole universe that comes with liberty and light.

The difference was only a point of view, but it changed the aspect of the world.

This new note, which meant for the woman liberty, breadth, and unity, was struck by the woman's club.

To the term "club," as applied to and by women, may be fitly referred the words in which John Addington Symonds defines "Renaissance." "This," he remarks, "is not explained by this or that characteristic, but as an effort for which at length the time had come." It means the attainment

of the conscious freedom of the woman spirit, and has been manifested first most strongly and most widely in this country, because here that spirit has attained the largest measure of freedom.

The woman's club was not an echo; it was not the mere banding together for a social and economic purpose, like the clubs of men. It became at once, without deliberate intention or concerted action, a light-giving and seed-sowing centre of purely altruistic and democratic activity. It had no leaders. It brought together qualities rather than personages; and by a representation of all interests, moral, intellectual, and social, a natural and equal division of work and opportunity, created an ideal basis of organization, where every one has an equal right to whatever comes to the common centre; where the centre itself becomes a radiating medium for the diffusion of the best of that which is brought to it, and into which, all being freely given, no material considerations enter.

This is no ideal or imaginary picture. It is the simplest prose of every woman's club and every clubwoman's experience during the past thirty years.

It has been in every sense an awakening to the full glory and meaning of life. It is also a very narrow and self-absorbed mind that only sees in these openings opportunities for its own pleasure, or chances for its own advancement, on its own narrow and exclusive lines. The lesson of the hour is help for those that need it, in the shape in which they need it, and kinship with all and everything that exists on the face of God's earth. If we miss this we miss the spirit, the illuminating light of the whole movement, and lose it in the mire of our own selfishness.

The tendency of association upon any broad human basis is to destroy the caste spirit, and this the club has done for women more than any other influence that as yet has come into existence. A club that is narrowed to a clique, a class, or a single object is a contradiction in terms. It may be a society or a congregation of societies, but it is not a club. The essence of a club is its many-sided character, its freedom in gathering together and expressing all shades of difference, its equal and independent terms of membership, which puts every one upon the same footing and enables each one to find or make her own place. The most opposite ideas find equal claims to respect. Women widest apart in position and habits of life find much in common, and acquaintance and contact mutually helpful and advantageous. Club life teaches us that there are many kinds of wealth in the world—the wealth of ideas, of knowledge, of sympathy, of readiness to be put in any place and used in any way for the general good. These are given, and no price is or can be put upon them, yet they ennoble and enrich whatever comes within their influence.

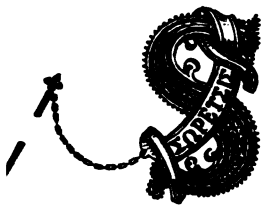
We are only at the threshold of a future that thrills us with its wonderful possibilities—possibilities of fellowship, where separation was; of love, where hatred was; of unity, where division was; of peace, where war was; of light, physical, mental, and spiritual, where darkness was; of agreement and equality, where differences and traditions had built up walls of distinction and lines of caste. This beautiful thing needs only to be realized in thought to become an actual fact in life, and those who do realize it are enriched by it beyond the power of words to express.

Women have been God's own ministers everywhere and at all times. In varied ways they have worked for others until the name of woman stands for the spirit of self-sacrifice.

Now, He bids them bind their sheaves and show a new and more glorious womanhood; a new unit—the completed type of the mother-woman, working with all, as well as for all.

Seed Sowers

SOROSIS



THE beginnings of any movement are not represented by the facts which appear as "history," but they furnish a starting point, the vital elements of which must be supplied by the experience and imagination of the reader.

It was prior to March, 1868, that the Press Club of New York offered to Mr. Charles Dickens a dinner, which was to be given at the close of his reading tour in this country.

The somewhat churlish treatment accorded to Mrs. Croly's application for a ticket, and, subsequently, to other ladies who applied for an extension of the same privilege upon the same terms as men, suggested to Mrs. Croly the idea of a club composed of women only, that should manage its own affairs, represent as far as possible the active interests of women, and create a bond of fellowship between them, which many women, as well as men, thought at that time it would be impossible to establish.

Mrs. Croly imparted her idea to Mrs. Charlotte B. Wilbour and Miss Kate Field. Both were at once interested, and Miss Field begged permission to communicate it to Mrs. Henry M. Field, and it was agreed, at the same time, that Mrs. Croly should endeavor to secure the coöperation of Mrs. Professor Botta.

On the first Monday in March, 1868, a meeting was called at the residence of Mrs. Croly, at which the following ladies were present : Mrs. C. B. Wilbour, Mrs. Botta, Mrs. H. M. Field, Miss Kate Field, and the hostess.

Mrs. Croly, on being asked to state the object in view, briefly recounted the facts in regard to the treatment of women members of the press by the New York Press Club, and said her idea was to supply the want of unity and secular organization among women. Many women, she herself among the rest, wished for a more intimate companionship with women, that is, with those whose deeper natures had been roused to activity, who had been seized by the divine spirit of inquiry and aspiration, who were interested in the

thought and progress of the age, and in what other women were thinking and doing. No plan of work had been laid down, or system of organization, because these must be the outgrowth of what were felt to be the wants of the membership, and the first thing to do was to consider a basis.

Mrs. Botta recommended "taking the bull by the horns," and calling it the "Blue Stocking Club." This was opposed on the ground that it would tend to make it too strictly literary. The club, it was felt, must be homogeneous—hospitable to women of different minds, degrees, and habits of work and thought—it must be representative of the whole woman, not of any special class of women, for the idea of clubs for women was to rid them of the system of exclusion and separation. A note of invitation was, however, agreed upon, signed by all present, Miss Kate Field acting as secretary, and a number of names suggested to whom it should be sent. In the meantime Miss Field announced her immediate departure for Boston, where she was to attend the Charles Dickens lectures on behalf of the New York *Tribune* prior to his coming to New York. During this absence Mrs. Wilbour consented to act as secretary *pro tem*.

The second preparatory meeting was called for the succeeding Monday, at the same time and place, in the afternoon, at Mrs. Croly's house in West Fourteenth Street. But previous to its assembling and during the intervening days many events occurred which threatened to "nip" the new organization in the bud, and postpone the work it was destined to do for women. Among these were letters of withdrawal from Mrs. Field and Mrs. Botta, the former on the ground of immediate and long-continued absence from the city; the latter, the opposition of her husband. Miss Field, as anticipated, was absent in Boston. This defection left the burden of responsibility upon the shoulders of Mrs. Croly and Mrs. Wilbour, who determined to carry it the best way they could.

On Sunday afternoon preceding the eventful Monday, they met at Mrs. Wilbour's house. Mrs. Croly had prepared a little platform as a basis of action, and Mrs. Wilbour some brief rules for order. The two formulas were put together, and formed the first constitution, of which it was agreed that the less there was the better.

The finding of the name is told in an historic sketch given on the sixteenth anniversary of Sorosis by Mrs. Croly. It reads: "To find a name, Mrs. Wilbour and I looked through piles of dictionaries, or, rather, we placed piles before us with the intention of searching them. But in the first one, which happened to be a botanical dictionary, I found the word 'Sorosis,' and liked it for its full, appropriate signification, its unhackneyed character, and sweet sound, which seemed to me full of all gracious meaning. Mrs. Wilbour at first thought it would require too much explanation, and suggested



ALICE CARY,
FIRST PRESIDENT OF SOROSIS.

that we should ask Mr. Wilbour's opinion. We did so, and he thought it a good word and good name, so we agreed upon it; and the next day it was presented, with the constitution as before stated, to fourteen women, twelve of whom enlisted at once in the new organization, and subscribed their names to its charter membership."

The presidency of the new club was offered to Mrs. Croly, but she refused to accept it, alleging her desire to remain a worker in the ranks, and the desirability of finding a president whose name would confer distinction upon the as yet unknown "club."

Alice Cary, the poet of American women, was Mrs. Croly's choice, and at her personal solicitation, as told in the memoir of the sisters by Mary Clemmer, though in very feeble health, she accepted the position, and thus the first printed list of officers became:

President—ALICE CARY, 53 East Twentieth Street.

Vice-President—JENNIE C. CROLY, *World Office*.

Corresponding Secretary—KATE FIELD, *Tribune Office*.

Committee—Phebe Cary, 53 East Twentieth Street; Ella Dietz Clymer, 79 East Fifteenth Street; Celia M. Burleigh, 37 Huntingdon Street, Brooklyn; Josephine Pollard, 409 West Eighteenth Street; Lucy Gibbons, 212 Fifth Avenue; Ellen Louise Demorest, 813 Broadway.

Recording Secretary and Treasurer—CHARLOTTE B. WILBOUR, 151 East Fifty-first Street.

At this period no one of those connected with the undertaking had ever heard of a "woman's club," or of any secular organization composed entirely of women, for the purpose of bringing all kinds of women together to work out their own objects in their own way.

The originator specially disavowed any specific object, asking only for a representative woman's organization based on perfectly equal terms, in which women might acquire methods, learn how to work together for general objects, not for charity or a propaganda.

This declaration of principles was the cause of much abusive criticism, as well as failure to obtain aid and sympathy. Had Sorosis started to *do* any one thing, from building an asylum for aged and indigent "females" to supplying the natives of Timbuctoo with pocket handkerchiefs, it would have found a public already made. But its attitude was frankly ignorant and inquiring. It laid no claim to wisdom or knowledge that could be of any use to anybody. It simply felt the stirring of an intense desire that women should come together—*all* together, not from one church, or one neighborhood, or one walk of life, but from all quarters, and take counsel together,

find the cause of failures and separations, of ignorance and wrong-doing, and try to discover better ways, more intelligent methods.

The first that was known to us of the existence of another club came through a letter from Miss Kate Field in reply to one informing her of the meeting for organization and the adoption of the name of Sorosis. Miss Field wrote, among other things: "The Boston women are also forming a club, but they have got men with them, and know better what they want. They will accomplish something definite and practical. Don't go on with 'Sorosis.' I won't have the name. Nobody knows what it means, and nobody will know what you mean or what you want, and you will be laughed at."

This was the first intimation that any other club existed, or contemplated existence, and Sorosis felt happy over it and a little less alone in the world.

The different *modus operandi* did not disturb its intention, or change its point of view. This was that Sorosis must be, and must remain, a strictly woman's club whatever that might grow to mean; made by women for women, possibly to found an "order" of women, but, in any case, to form a centre of unity, not upon the ground of conviction or philanthropy, but womanhood alone, and desire to know and be helpful.

From a letter written somewhat later the following is quoted: "I think we accepted the fact that Boston women were wiser, knew more, and would make something finer in the way of a society than we could. We were willing to acknowledge that Sorosis might be and remain a 'poor thing,' but we liked the thought that it would be 'our own.'"

This was our true and honest attitude when Miss Field came back from Boston and presented herself at the first meeting held at Delmonico's on the 20th of April, 1868. The foundation membership of twelve had by this time more than doubled. The modest constitution had been printed, with the list of officers. Arrangements had been made for regular meetings at Delmonico's, and the name Sorosis announced as derived from the Greek word *συνελευσις*, an aggregation.

Miss Alice Cary had, under strong personal pressure, accepted the presidency, but being absent from illness, Mrs. Croly occupied the chair.

Miss Kate Field was accompanied by Mrs. James T. Field, of Boston; and in the then weak and somewhat vague condition of the club membership managed to carry so much weight that the name Sorosis was set aside and her substitute, "The Woman's League," adopted.

Mrs. Croly fought valiantly, but at last acquiesced because a considerable majority seemed to be in favor of it, and "the first lesson of a woman's club was to submit to the majority." Madame Le Vert, the Southern writer, then resident in New York, alone stood by Mrs. Croly to the last.

Thus, on the 20th of April, Sorosis became, on motion of Miss Kate Field, "The Woman's League." But this was soon found to have been a mistake even by those who had favored it. The Woman's League was expected to coöperate with and receive the patronage of a male organization. This was more than the membership had bargained for. At the next meeting, first Monday in May, Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, who had voted for the change, brought in a resolution of reconsideration, thus clearing the way for a second vote, and Sorosis was restored by an overwhelming majority.



BACKYARD OF ALICE CARY'S HOME

This action cost the club the coöperation of Miss Field, Mrs. Longstreet (then Mrs. Gildersleeve), and Mrs. Gibbons, who left the room and the club in disgust. Alice Cary presided at this meeting, and read her first and only address. In part it said: "'A Woman's Club! Whoever heard of the like? What do women want of a club? Have you any aims or objects?' These are questions which have been propounded to me day after day since this object was set afoot—by gentlemen, of course. And I have answered that in our humble way we were to imitate their example. You have your clubs, I have said, and why should not we have ours?"

"It is true we have 'tipped the teapot.' This is a hard saying, the head and front of the charges brought against us, and we cannot but acknowledge its justice and its force; we are, in fact, weighed down with shame and

humiliation, and impelled, while we are about it, to make full and free confession of all our wild and guilty fantasies. We have, then, to begin at the beginning, proposed the inoculation of deeper and broader ideas among women, proposed to teach them to think for themselves, and get their opinions at first hand, not so much because it is their right as because it is their duty. We have also proposed to open out new avenues of employment to women, to make them less dependent and less burdensome, to lift them out of unwomanly self-distrust, disqualifying diffidence, into womanly self-respect and self-knowledge; to teach each one to make all work honorable by doing the share that falls to her, or that she may work out to herself agreeably to her own special aptitude, cheerfully and faithfully, not going down to it, but bringing it up to her. We have proposed to enter our protest against all idle gossip, against misuse and waste of time, saying and doing what we are able to say and to do, without asking leave, and without suffering hindrance; not for the exclusive good of our own sex, for no separate good; what injures my brother injures me, and what injures me injures him, if he could but be made to know it; it injures him, whether or not he is made to know it. Such, I have said, are some of our objects and aims. We do not pretend as yet to have carefully digested plans and clearly defined courses. We are as children feeling our way in the dark, for it must be remembered that it is not yet half a century since the free schools, even in the most enlightened portions of our country, were first opened to girls. How, then, should you expect of us the fulness of wisdom which you for whole centuries have been gathering from schools, colleges, and the exclusive knowledge and management of affairs?

"We admit our shortcomings, but we do feel, gentlemen, that, in spite of them, an honest, earnest, and unostentatious effort toward broader culture and nobler life is entitled to a heartier and more sympathetic recognition than we have as yet received from you anywhere. Even as representatives here at home, the leaders of the New York press have failed in that magnanimity which we have been accustomed to attribute to them.

"If we could have foreseen the sneers and sarcasms with which we have been met, they of themselves would have constituted all-sufficient reasons for the establishment of this woman's club; as it is, they have established a strong impulse towards its continuance and perpetuity. But, ladies, these sneers and sarcasms are, after all, but so many acknowledgments of our power, and should and will stimulate us to braver assertion, to more persistent effort toward thorough and harmonious organization; and concert and harmony are all that we need to make this enterprise ultimately a great power for good. Indeed, with such women as have already enrolled their names on our lists, I, for my part, cannot believe failure possible. Some of



MRS. E. L. DEMOREST,
Charter Member, ex-Vice-President, and
ex-Treasurer, Sorosis

us cannot hope to see great results, for our feet are already on the downhill side of life; the shadows are lengthening behind us and gathering before us, and ere long they will meet and close, and the places that have known us know us no more. But if, when our poor work is done, any of those who come after us shall find in it some hint of usefulness toward nobler lives and better and more enduring work, we, for ourselves, rest content."

But the conflict of opinions agitated her, her nervous system was not equal to the strain, and she resigned the following week from the presidency, though continuing her membership, as did also her sister Phebe. But, notwithstanding these inevitable commotions, the club was happy. Its membership, from less than fifteen had increased to fifty; it began to see the uses of its existence and enjoy its life. On Monday, June 1, 1868, it met, and found an immense circular basket of roses, with centre of white carnations, and upon this "Sorosis" in violets. Who sent it no one seemed to know, but the roses were arranged for distribution, and the centre as a permanent decoration for the table, and as the members came in and saw it they clasped hands, and tears stood in many eyes. They had battled for their name; they had planted it, and now they watered it, and felt that it would grow. Only one person beside the donor knew that this basket was sent by Mrs. E. L. Demorest. One of the earliest acts of Sorosis was the adoption of a resolution to "honor representative women by receptions, or any more fitting form of recognition." This, as a function, was not common in those days, and its observance laid the foundation of that "largeness of hospitality" for which Sorosis has always been famous, and which has been extended to nearly every well-known woman at home, or abroad, during its life.

The methods employed during the first year were simple, but orderly. Meetings were arranged fortnightly, first and third Mondays in the month, the first for social and literary purposes, the second for business. These have always remained as at first. The literary work was performed exclusively by the membership. Luncheon preceded the literary programme, and the expense *pro rata* represented the financial requirements of routine life; the entrance fee of five dollars paying printing and other expenses. A pledge had been adopted formulated by Mrs. Wilbour, and an insignia secured consisting of an "S" in gold and enamel, inscribed with "Sorosis" in Greek characters.

During the first year there was no president after Alice Cary's resignation, it having been decided, pursuant to a resolution presented by Mrs. Wilbour, and supported by Mrs. Croly, to elect a chairman at every meeting, and thus "educate" the members generally for the business of presiding officer. The social events of the year were memorable, for they were the first of their kind, and practically changed the custom of confining public dinner-giving to men.

The first was offered as an *amende honorable* on the part of the New York Press Club, and consisted of a "breakfast," to which the Press Club invited Sorosis, but did not invite it to speak, or do anything but sit still, and eat, and be talked and sung to. The second was a "tea" given by Sorosis to the Press Club, at which it reversed the order, furnishing all the speakers, and allowing the men no chance, not even to respond to their own toast. The third was a "dinner," the brightest and best of the whole, at which ladies and gentlemen each paid their own way and shared equally the honors and responsibilities. This was the first public dinner at which men and women ever sat down on equal terms. A report of it in a daily paper closed as follows: "The entire affair was decidedly one of the most delightful events of the season, and will long be held in pleasantest memory by all who had the honor to participate in it. We believe we violate no secret when we say that the gentlemen were most agreeably surprised to find their rival club composed of charming women, representing the best aristocracy of the metropolis—the aristocracy of sterling good sense, earnest thought, aspiration, and progressive intellect, with no perceptible taint of the traditional strong-mindedness."

Alice Cary was too ill to be present, but her speech (in rhyme) is worth preserving.

"You know, my friends, through whose good graces
We meet around this board to-day ;
It has been said that man embraces
Woman : but, with your leave, I say,
This rather holds in special cases
Than in a general way.

"We women have been coaxed and vaunted,
Fawned on and flattered every way ;
But the high-honored place we wanted
Is ours in sober truth to-day ;
For with the equal set is granted
The equal right to pay !

"Pardon the mention of the shilling—
 (You see 'twas thrown so in my way),
 And think not that I speak as chilling
 Your courtesies, or courtship, pray;
 For each of us, our Barkis willing,
 Would name the happy day!

"We mean to prove your praise no fable,
 And while for that good end we pray,
 Let lightning, harnessed to the Cable,
 Trample old ocean into spray
 With news that women sit at table
 Above the salt to-day!"

The first "pay" lecture was given in November, 1868, by Mrs. Celia Burleigh for the benefit of the Emma Willard Fund of the club. Her subject was "Houses and Homes," and it introduced her to the lecture field. Emma Willard had been made the first honorary member of Sorosis, and the fund was to establish a scholarship.

A very brief experience of the plan of successive chairmen as presiding officers had demonstrated its impracticability. The choice always fell upon the same persons, and the club lost the benefit derived from recognized guardianship and guidance. The same cause had operated to prevent the adoption of any regular system or classification of work, and a determination was arrived at to elect a president at the close of the year and settle down to some organized plan of division of responsibility. In December, 1868, a charter was obtained by Mrs. Agnes Noble, chairman of the Executive Committee.

The certificate of incorporation specified that—"1st. The corporate name of such Association shall be 'Sorosis,' which, being interpreted, signifies 'An aggregation,' 'A growth to culmination,' and the mark or badge of membership claimed and appropriated by the Society is a golden Roman capital letter 'S,' transversed with a scroll, upon which is enameled in Greek letters, ΣΩΠΕΤΣΙΣ.

"2d. The particular or specific objects for which the said Society shall be and is formed and incorporated, shall be and are hereby declared to be the promotion of agreeable and useful relations among women of literary, artistic, and scientific tastes; the discussion and dissemination of principles and facts which promise to exert a salutary influence on women and on society, and the establishment of an order which shall render the female sex helpful to each other, and actively benevolent in the world."

The wording of this act, copied verbatim from the constitution, and

dated 30th of December, 1868, shows that from the first, Sorosis carried with it the germ of the greater unity—the intention of that aggregation of the forces of womanhood that found its realization in the General Federation of Women's Clubs, formed by Sorosis twenty years later.

The report of the Executive Committee at the annual meeting, first Monday in March, 1869, states that "Nineteen regular club meetings have been held—fifteen at Delmonico's and four at the houses of members. In addition to the ordinary routine business, including special matters brought to the consideration of the club by the Executive Committee, these meetings have been rendered conspicuously profitable by conversational disquisitions and literary exercises of a high order. We have now eighty-three members 'in good and regular standing.'

"Among these are six artists or workers in art, twenty-two authors, six editors, one historian, eleven poets, nine teachers and lecturers, eight well-known philanthropists, two physicians, four writers on science, besides others who are contributors to periodicals. At intervals between the regular meetings there have been social evening gatherings at the houses of members, for the purpose of bringing together in an informal way men and women of intelligence and culture. At the first meeting, held in January, 1869, the committee having in charge the obtaining of an act of incorporation reported that a certificate of incorporation under the general law of the State had been filed in the archives of the Secretary of State, a duplicate of which was presented and adopted by the club. Applications for the establishment of clubs in other cities have been received, and permission has been granted the women of two other cities to organize under our name. Thus has Sorosis passed into history.

"The influence of Sorosis is now felt far and near, and it is not too much to say that it initiated a movement and, at this moment, maintains a position which, in conjunction with auxiliary aggregations of women tending to the same result, will revolutionize the world.

"AGNES NOBLE, Chairwoman."

The Committee on Nominations reported: President, Mrs. Croly; secretary, Miss Kate Hillard, in place of Mrs. C. B. Wilbour, resigned; treasurer, Miss Josephine Pollard. Mrs. Croly was elected by acclamation, and other nominations confirmed. The list of officers for 1869 stood as follows:

President—Mrs. Croly,

Vice-Presidents—Mrs. C. B. Wilbour, Mrs. Dr. Anna E. Dinsmore, Mrs. E. Oakes Smith, Mrs. Fanny Fern Parton, Mrs. Mary Greeley, Mrs. Mary E. Owen, Harmony, Ind.; Miss Emily Faithfull, London, England.

Recording Secretary—Miss Kate Hillard.

Corresponding Secretary—Mrs. Celia Burleigh.

Treasurer—Miss Josephine Pollard.

Auditor of Accounts—Mrs. Abby Hutchinson Patton.

Custodia—Miss Charlotte Cordonier.

In the beginning of this year standing committees were formed, the chairmen of which arranged the programmes and were responsible for the literary exercises, the workers being always drawn from the club. This system has remained the same throughout its life. The plan was to represent through the committees the actual activities, intellectual, social, educational, and philanthropic, of women, and obtain a knowledge of them as a basis for work, and no change has been made in the original plan, though modifications have been made and the number of committees increased from the first, four to eight, and at one time nine.

In May, 1869, Mrs. Croly presented her plan of a Woman's Parliament, its object being "to organize a body of women to represent women upon subjects of vital interest to themselves and their children, to crystallize the intelligence and influence of women into a moral power, to act definitely upon the varied interests of society. The more immediate matters expected to command the attention of the 'Parliament' were those connected with public education, prisons and reformatory schools, hygienic and sanitary reforms, female labor, the department of domestic economy, dishonesty in public life," and the like. The measure was defeated for the time; it was too early for so large an enterprise. Early in the year a special committee was formed for the investigation of foundling asylums in relation to infant mortality. Mrs. Celia Burleigh, Mrs. E. L. Demorest, Mrs. Horace Greeley, and Dr. Anna Dinsmore were the active members of this committee. Dr. Dinsmore put herself in communication with institutions abroad and collected an astonishing array of facts, which were presented to the club and published in the *World* newspaper, June, 1869. The press took up the subject; a Protestant foundling asylum was shortly instituted, and subsequently one by the Roman Catholics.

During that year, 1869-70, Mrs. Celia Burleigh aided in starting the Woman's Club of Brooklyn, of which she became the president. Her closing report as corresponding secretary of Sorosis contained the following: "The suggestion of a Woman's Club excited a degree of interest unlooked for and unprecedented. It was caricatured, criticised, and misrepresented, while from women all over the country came eager questioning of its aims, methods, and possibilities. This handful of women had undertaken to do what seemed to them a very simple thing—provide for a want which they in common with many other women felt, and they suddenly found themselves the subjects of sneering comment or vulgar would-be wit on the part of the men, and eager

hope and expectation from women from one end of the country to the other. But the central idea of Sorosis was vital, and would neither consent to die nor be suppressed. The originator of the movement, though lacking experience, uncertain of the material that could be brought together, brought to the work an earnestness of purpose, a faith in woman, and an invincibility of determination which could not fail of success. I believe I express the sentiment of every one who has been for any length of time a member of Sorosis when I say that the debt we owe it is beyond our power to estimate. Probably we have not all been equally benefited, for our needs are various as our power of receiving help, but for myself I should be guilty of ingratitude if I allowed my official connection to cease without saying how much I am its debtor. Among the schools to which I have been sent, I reckon Sorosis the most valuable, and I trust I shall be pardoned if I mention the special good which I have received at its hands. One of the greatest needs of women is motive for mental activity—an hospitable entertainment of their thought. For me Sorosis met precisely this want; it afforded me an atmosphere so genial, an appreciation so prompt, a faith so generous, that every possibility of my nature seemed intensified, and all its latent powers quickened into life. If in the years to come I do any worthy work, speak any word that has power to help a despondent soul, shed any gleam of light on the dark and dreary ways that so many women are called upon to tread, it will be to Sorosis that it will be due in large measure—to this school where I have been educated to better hopes, to nobler aspirations, and a larger life."

March, 1870, Mrs. Croly declined a renomination, and the choice for president fell upon Mrs. Charlotte B. Wilbour, a lady of exceptional ability, associated with Mrs. Croly in the founding and early work of the club, and admirably well fitted, by personal qualifications and the possession of leisure, for the position of leader of a still young and struggling organization.

Mrs. Wilbour instituted a series of lectures on "Health and Dress Reform for Women," which did much toward arousing the interest of women in physiological questions. She assisted many women in their efforts to obtain the recognition of the public, and gave an impetus to worthy work, in and out of Sorosis, which has left a lasting impress. Mrs. Wilbour was elected president for five successive years. Her crowning work was the organization of the Association for the Advancement of Women. The call was sent out in May, 1873, signed by Mrs. Wilbour, president; Mrs. R. C. Clapp, chairman of Executive Committee; Miss Alice Fletcher, secretary, and other officers of Sorosis. One hundred and fifty women responded, and this first woman's congress met in the Union Square Theatre, in New York, October 15, 1873 (continuing its sessions for three days), with an attendance of about four hundred women. Mrs. Soule, chairman *pro tem.*, called the audience to order, and



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| 1. MRS. CROLY, Originator, second and fourth President | 5. MRS. J. DE LA M. LOZIER, seventh President |
| 2. MRS. CHARLOTTE B. WILBOUR, third President | 6. MRS. F. I. HELMUTH, eighth President |
| 3. MRS. ELLA DIETZ CLYMER, sixth President | 7. MRS. MARY DAME HALL, ninth President |
| 4. MRS. M. LOUISE THOMAS, fifth President | |

announced that an organization had been effected, which would be known as the Association for the Advancement of Women, and that Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, of Massachusetts, had been elected president. After a few remarks by Mrs. Livermore, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe read the first paper, "How Can Women Best Associate Their Efforts for the Amelioration of Society?" Eighteen States were represented on the Board of Officers, and thirty-five papers were presented by their authors. The convention decided to hold an Annual Congress each fall, and a Mid-Year Conference for officers each spring. These congresses have been held in—Chicago, 1874; Syracuse, 1875; Philadelphia, 1876; Cleveland, 1877; Providence, 1878; Madison, 1879; Boston, 1880; Buffalo, 1881; Portland, Me., 1882; Chicago, 1883; Baltimore, 1884; Des Moines, 1885; Louisville, 1886; New York, 1887; Detroit, 1888; Denver, 1889; Toronto, 1890; Grand Rapids, 1891; Memphis, 1892; Chicago, 1893; Knoxville, 1894; New Orleans, 1895; New Brunswick, St. John, 1896; Springfield, Mass., November, 1897. The work of this association is a matter of history; it has been called the "John the Baptist" of women's clubs, and has stimulated their formation and usefulness wherever the sessions have been held. The need of its work has lessened with the multiplication of local clubs and organizations, but its pioneer efforts will always be remembered with gratitude for the work they accomplished.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe was made the president in 1874, and has been reelected every year since that time. Much of its continued vitality is due to the devotion of an able secretary, Mrs. Lily Lord Tift.

In the spring of 1874 Mrs. Wilbour went abroad, leaving the first vice-president, Rev. Phebe Hanaford, to fill the presidential chair, which she did with marked ability, contributing many valuable papers to the literary work of the club, and impressing the strength of her conscience and convictions upon the general tone and spirit of the membership in a very high degree.

In March, 1875, Mrs. Croly was reelected president, a position she continued to fill up to March, 1886. In May, 1875, a "May festival" was held, notable for the number of distinguished men and women it brought together, and also for the presence of the famous journalist and editor who had said in a leading editorial, in 1868, that if a woman's club held together for one year, a good many people would find it necessary to revise their opinion of women. Called upon to retract *his* opinion, he did so in a complete, honorable, and manly manner.

During that year the "Committee on Education" was substituted for "Committee on Higher Education," and "Committee on House and Home" for "Sanitary Committee." In November, 1876, a petition was prepared and presented by Sorosis to the two great educational institutions of New York city, viz., the University of the City of New York and Columbia

College, praying that test examinations be organized for women on the basis of those offered by Harvard, and that, further, these schools should grant the advantages of their curricula to young women as well as to young men.

The appeal was supplemented by a detailed statement of the work done for women abroad by the universities of Oxford and Cambridge. This effort had no immediate result, but it was warmly endorsed by President Barnard of Columbia, and Chancellor Crosby of the New York University, and was the beginning of all that has since been accomplished in this field. Committee work was active in succeeding years. Who can ever forget the inspiring days when Erminia Smith was chairman of "Science" and Prof. Maria Mitchell a frequent speaker? Dr. Adelaide Hastings did a searching work into the condition of the shop-girls in New York, which had excellent results in improving their treatment; while the regular work in the Committees on Literature, Art, Drama, Education, and House and Home was so conscientious and faithful as to leave no room or desire for outside contributions to the literary exercises.

A memorable occasion was that of a complimentary reception tendered to Mrs. Martha J. Lamb on the completion of her admirable "History of the City of New York," a work involving the patient labor and research of more than ten years. This testimonial reception was honored by the presence of the most distinguished men as well as women of New York, and was the last occasion upon which the Rev. Dr. Bellows appeared or spoke in public. Miss Emily Faithfull was honored by a reception at the hands of Sorosis on her first visit to this country, 1871, and of others who have been specially distinguished are Madame Isabelle Bogelet, Miss Amelia B. Edwards, Lady Henry Somerset, Miss Frances Willard, Mrs. Craigie (John Oliver Hobbs), Madame Henri Greville, Madame Korany, and many others, including prominent clubwomen all over the country. It is rarely that less than ten States of the Union are represented at any "social" meeting of Sorosis.

The only man ever honored by a special reception given by Sorosis was Peter Cooper, in the autumn of 1875.

Sorosis dates its beginning from its date of organization, the second Monday in March. It has never changed its dates, and never missed a fortnightly coming together, since the first Monday in March, 1868, except during the summer recess, which does not begin till July.

"Anniversary Day" is a brilliant occasion. The members invite guests, and come arrayed, as for a dinner-party, in handsome toilets and wearing flowers. The tables, too, are adorned with flowers; and as every member is invited to contribute something—speech, song, toast, or story—the after-dinner result is varied and original.

The annual election, first Monday in March, precedes this function.

The methods used at the elections of Sorosis are an evolution. They are very simple, and occupy but little time. A nominating committee sends out two blank lists of offices to be filled. The names are written in by the members receiving them, and the slips deposited in a closed box on the morning of election day. The polls are closed at a certain hour; and from the majorities the elected ticket is obtained and declared.

Once a year, on the third Thursday in January, Sorosis gives a reception and dinner to which gentlemen are invited, and in the exercises of which they participate.

Special and useful occasions are the Quarterly Conferences of *all* the officers, including the chairmen of standing committees. To these conferences are brought questions and suggestions concerning committee work and methods, and an opportunity is afforded for interchange of ideas between the working intellectual forces and the executive or "business" department. The last conference of the season occurs in June, and usually by invitation at the home of some member who has a country house and grounds. The invitations are not strictly confined to the officers, and summer lends its sweetest fruits and flowers. Sorosis has a long list of deceased members, and since 1894 has reserved the afternoon of the third Monday in April to the exercises of "Memorial Day." There is nothing gloomy about the proceedings. White flowers adorn the platform. Traits and memories are lovingly recalled, and poems and music vary the exercises.

The afternoons of "business" days (always third Monday in the month) are utilized for an "open" meeting, the purpose of which is to give an opportunity for outside lectures, or musicales, and occasionally for the discussion of a question not within the scope of the club work.

The standing committees—Literature, Science, Education, Art, Philanthropy, House and Home, Drama, and Current Events—occupy every "social" day, and the work requires so real an amount of time that it has been strictly respected, leaving little opportunity outside the programme. An arena was therefore needed, and it was one of the happy thoughts of Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, when she was president, to supply it. It was Mrs. Helmuth also who introduced the little vocal table blessing by Sorosis "Carol Club," which always precedes the luncheon.

Sorosis has never claimed to be a philanthropic or charitable organization; in fact, it persistently disclaims any benevolent object in its existence, except the general one of collective elevation and advancement, but it has done some benevolent work.

Previous to the formation of the "Committee on Philanthropy" as a standing committee, an "Emma Willard Fund" had been instituted, the

object of which was to provide scholarships for poor but deserving girls. One was obtained and given, but after the formation of the committee above mentioned, the remainder of the fund was transferred to the Philanthropic Committee for special purposes. Between 1878 and 1884 there was given by this committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Henry Herrman, fifty dollars (1878-79) to the Fruit and Flower Mission; free passes to Europe for a consumptive woman and newly-born child, also a supply of clothing for mother and baby; fifty dollars for the yellow fever sufferers at Memphis; a beautiful floral gift to the West Point Soldiers' Burial Ground. In May of 1879 a large box of well-assorted clothing was sent to the Mayor of Milton, Penn., for the relief of sufferers by fire in that town. Fifty dollars to the Working Woman's Protective Union; a box of clothing to Michigan sufferers; a trunkful of clothing to the Woman's National Relief Association, for distribution at life-saving stations; one hundred dollars as a Christmas gift (1883), divided between the Children's Aid and Charity Organization Society. Smaller sums, representing an aggregate of two hundred dollars, were given to women workers disabled by illness and needy students in schools. A mission church received two hundred and seventy-four dollars, and two funerals, one that of a member, were conducted and the expense borne wholly or in part by Sorosis. All this was the incidental work of one chairman and her committee during her six years of continuous service. She was also justly famous for the vital nature of the subjects she contributed to the discussions. Much other good work has been done and many noble contributions made, notably to the Hampton, Va., school, under other chairmen, but none have labored so persistently and variously as "Saint Esther." It would occupy too much space to attempt even a suggestion of the themes considered by Sorosis during its thirty years of club life. Subjects have always presented the vital aspects of broad, human interests; no continuous class study has ever been taken up. The work has presented living issues in the various departments into which it is divided, and has formed the basis of an education in breadth of view.

In the beginning of the year 1889 Sorosis called a convention to celebrate its twenty-first birthday. This convention brought together for the first time the women's clubs from every part of the country, and laid the foundation, established by permanent organization a year later, for the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This greatest work of Sorosis will be further told in the record of the organization. Sorosis exhibited at these two successive conventions, 1889 and 1890, a disinterestedness and a noble hospitality that won the admiration of the splendid delegations from women's clubs that formed the charter membership of the General Federation. It declined presidential nomination, made itself responsible for the expenses, and felt abundantly repaid by the beautiful loving-cup unanimously offered

through Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods, and which is now always filled with flowers, and occupies the place of honor in front of the president on every social day.

In gathering the literary work of the State for the World's Fair, in 1893, Sorosis was honored by a request from Mrs. Blanche W. Bellamy, chairman of the literature department, to make a collection of club folios from every club of a literary character in the State. The work was satisfactorily accomplished, Rev. Phebe A. Hanaford being the chairman of the committee, and Mrs. H. M. Poole the historian of the committee. The folio contributed by Sorosis contained its history, constitution and by-laws, list of officers and members, a record of noted occasions, and four papers, "The Woman's Club Movement," by Mrs. Croly; "The Matron of the Period," by Mrs. Wilbour; "The Significance of Language to the Iroquois," by Mrs. E. A. Smith; and a poem, by Mary Fenn Davis.

A complimentary reception given by the then president, Mrs. Lozier, to the committee and contributors, at which parts of the folio were read, concluded an interesting episode. The little volume is now, with other folios, a part of the literary archives of the State.

By request, Mrs. C. J. Haley, now Mrs. Higley, the publisher of the *Woman's Cycle* during its first year, and treasurer of Sorosis, had the twenty-six numbers bound which represented its first twelve months of life, and added the volume to the list of library books, which are now also the property of the State.

The latest important work of Sorosis was the issue of a call for the formation of a State Federation, which was effected in 1894, and became in two years the largest of the State organizations, with a numerical strength of nearly two hundred clubs and twenty-five thousand women.

Sorosis has been called a "seed-sower." It seems to have been largely its work to lay foundations. If it has not done so much of what is called "practical" work as some other clubs it is because it has aimed to be an influence rather than a power, and also because its membership consists as individuals of the active promoters of almost every good cause and educational movement begun and carried on in the community. If it is a little clannish it is because many of the members have seen sunshine and storm together; but they are never exclusive, that meanest of words and things, but give the widest distribution possible to every good thing they have and know.

The presidents of Sorosis have been eight,



MRS. CHRISTINA J. HIGLEY,
Chairman Executive Committee

Mrs. Mary Dame Hall, now in the chair, making the ninth: Alice Cary (1868), Jennie C. Croly (1869), Charlotte B. Wilbour (1870-75), Jennie C. Croly (1875-86), M. Louise Thomas (1886-89), Ella Dietz Clymer (1889-91), Jennie de la M. Lozier (1891-94), Fannie I. Helmuth (1894-96), Mary Dame Hall (1897). "A notable list, as distinguished for character as for ability." As was said by a clubwoman, Olive Thorne Miller: "To plant the germ of an idea that will take root in the world-mind and grow to be an institution of power, demands mental qualities of a high order, courage, foresight, judgment, and withal not a little of the martyr spirit. The more one thinks upon the state of public opinion a quarter of a century ago, the more is he impressed with the bravery of two little groups of women, in Boston and New York, who dared to form the Woman's Club. And how wisely they did it, too, on their different lines! Women will yet crown these sisters who caught the first gleams of the rising sun of womanhood, and crystallized their hopes, their ambitions, and their prophecies in the Woman's Club. Never in the history of the world has there been an institution that has done so much for women, and its work is only begun. Its progress is a stately march down the ages, with which sooner or later every woman will keep step, and with results in the history of the race which no one can predict."

The officers of Sorosis are: President, Mrs. Mary Dame Hall; vice-president, Mrs. D. T. S. Denison; second vice-president, Mrs. E. L. Demorest; third vice-president, Mrs. W. T. Yardley; chairman of Executive Committee, Mrs. C. J. Higley; recording secretary, Mrs. W. W. Greeley; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. V. Townsend; treasurer, Mrs. Katherine G. Foote.



BANNER OF SOROSIS

NEW ENGLAND WOMAN'S CLUB

THE NEW ENGLAND WOMAN'S CLUB started simultaneously with Sorosis, but its aims and methods were, from the first, different. It began with a philanthropic idea, and was composed of men as well as women. The literary work was largely contributed by men, and was listened to but not participated in by the general membership. The New England Woman's Club has always been a dignified and influential body of women, with a long train of followers inspired by its work, its brave attitude upon dress reform, and other progressive ideas, and with brilliant leaders, who have remained such from the beginning until the present time.

The following record is taken *verbatim*, so far as the facts are concerned, from the history of the New England Woman's Club, written and compiled by Miss Julia A. Sprague, the historian of the club from 1868 to 1893. Some of the detail has, of course, been omitted from a record that occupies a book of itself; but all that is given is authentic, and forms history which is in itself a monument.

HISTORICAL RECORD

"The beginnings of new social movements are difficult to trace, because their resultant importance is often greater than was conceived by the pioneers; therefore the records of first steps are scanty and unsatisfactory. The eventful years from 1861 to 1867 incited the activity of women to a new phase of development throughout the land. During the war, and particularly through the work of the Sanitary Commission, women had felt an increased sense of power and influence in their relations toward humanity in general. The imperative demand for activity ceased when peace was restored, and the disbandment of the Sanitary Commission took place. A strong desire existed, however, to find some means of uniting forces in such a way as to continue such educational and social relations as would fit the women of a city or town to enter upon duties which might arise in any form in the future."

Among the women who were unconsciously sowing seeds for a large harvest was Mrs. Caroline M. Severance.

Mrs. Severance writes: "Often in my Cleveland (Ohio) home I used to

talk with Mr. A. B. Alcott about the possibility of a literary and social union, and later with Mrs. S. E. Sewall and others in Boston. When I became a resident of the latter city I resolved to make an effort for this union, especially as Mr. Alcott assured me that going to Boston, in the hope of meeting easily and often the able New England women of whom I had heard, and some of whom I had met, would be a disappointment, as they were scattered in all circles and interests." To such an ardent desire Mrs. Severance soon found a response from kindred spirits among the progressive thinkers of those stirring times.



MRS. C. M. SEVERANCE,
First President, New England Woman's Club

The first called meeting was on February 16, 1868, at the house of Dr. Harriett K. Hunt. At this meeting the name of Mrs. Severance was proposed for president, and a list of names for vice-presidents.

On February 18th Mrs. Severance writes to Mrs. Cheney: "I am quite decided about this, that at the next meeting you had better look over our list of vice-presidents, including as it does so many choice persons, and select the most desirable one for president; because I shall do all in my power without the office, and perhaps more on the Executive Committee without it."

The next preliminary meeting was at the house of Mrs. James Freeman

Clarke, where further discussion ensued. On March 10, 1868, at the house of Miss Abby W. May, after earnest consideration of the different points, the present constitution was adopted, and the name of the New England Woman's Club assumed. Objection was made to the term "club,"* but it was felt that it was broad, significant, and novel. "Club" shows its combination of sociability and freedom, with a degree of exclusiveness, for a "Woman's Club" was, as yet, an unknown quantity; while "New England" was to indicate its breadth and locality. It was to be an association of women; men might become members, but it was to be officered and controlled by women. It was not to be purely literary, charitable, philanthropic, educational, reformatory, political, religious, nor recreative, yet it was to partake of all these qualities in combination. It was to be a voluntary associating of kindred spirits, drawn together by no ties of family, neighborhood, or church.

Under the constitution Mrs. Caroline M. Severance was chosen president; Miss Lucia M. Peabody, secretary; and Mrs. Jonathan J. Lane, treasurer.

In May, 1868, rooms were hired at No. 3 Tremont Place, and a public meeting determined upon for May 30, 1868.

This meeting was held in Chickering Hall (Boston), and attracted a large audience. Among the speakers were Mrs. Severance, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, Mr. John Weiss, Mr. O. B. Frothingham, Mr. James Freeman Clarke, and Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson.

The women, for the most part, emphasized the intellectual and social side of the proposed work; the men the domestic, or what they called the "practical" side.

Mr. Weiss proposed the consideration of the vexed question of domestic service, Mr. Frothingham a registry for employments, and others the establishing of some sort of school.

The women mentioned these plans, yet looked deeper and recognized another and profounder need.

Many of the plans first discussed were found later to be impracticable, and were dropped or otherwise provided for.

On November 6, 1868, the first regular meeting of the organized club was held in its rooms. There were a hundred and eighteen members. The entire business arrangements were conducted by a board consisting of a president, a number of vice-presidents, secretary, treasurer, and directors, who held regular monthly meetings. The work of organization was delegated to three committees, one on art and literature, one on work, one on business. The

**Note by Historian.*—Looking for the derivation of the word "club," we find that it comes from an Anglo-Saxon word "*cleofan*," "to divide," "because," says an annotator, "the expenses are divided into shares"; perhaps from "*clýppan*" (Anglo-Saxon), "to embrace," or from the German "*kleben*," "to adhere."

Work Committee had charge of the registry for higher employments (at that time a cherished plan of the club) and also the arranging of any work befitting the aims of the association for individual or general benefit. At an early date Monday was set apart as special club day, but lectures were not always provided for the occasion. Special meetings were also often held. One session in the month was set apart for amusement, and one of the Monday sessions was held in the evening for the purpose of accommodating members occupied in the afternoons.

The practical element found expression in various ways. In January, 1869, a plan for establishing a horticultural school for women was brought forward. Mrs. E. D. Cheney gave this idea its first definite form by addressing a letter to the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, expressing the desire for such a school.

A committee from the club then drew up a plan for the school and presented it to a committee appointed by the Horticultural Society, which gave the plan a cordial reception, so that the club had the official sanction of that long-established society. From this arose, in 1870, the Horticultural School for Women, established in Newton, but when Buzzey College for Horticulture, in West Roxbury, opened its doors to women as well as men, the school was no longer needed, and ceased to exist.

On May 29, 1869, the first annual meeting occurred. The reports were deemed valuable, and were printed in a small pamphlet. The president, Mrs. C. M. Severance, congratulated the club on the pleasures and gains of the year, and made suggestions for future methods. The objects of the club not being well understood, she said: "The chief aim of the club is to be a centre of rest and social convenience for women in active philanthropic employments and for sympathetic intercourse." She suggested that "the Committee on Work shall post their programme of subjects where it may be seen from week to week, that each member may feel it her duty and privilege to take the subjects into careful consideration." The Business Committee reported, among other matters, the lack of money, and proposed increasing the treasury by donations and life-memberships, in order that no one be prevented from becoming a member by pecuniary obligations which she is unable to meet. The Committee on Art and Literature reported through its chairman, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, seven literary evenings and five afternoons when Mr. Henry James, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mr. Ralph Waldo Emerson, Dr. Frederic H. Hedge, Miss Elizabeth P. Peabody, Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska, Miss Kate Field, Rev. C. C. Shackford, Rev. Jacob Manning, and Mr. Thomas Wentworth Higginson gave addresses. The entertainment sessions, under the charge of the same committee, were always enjoyable. Mrs. Howe concluded: "We feel we have brought into sympathy and coöperation some

social elements which do not seek each other, but whose utility in the practical world is greatly heightened by intercombination. The promotion of reforms is to us the most interesting feature in the club programme, which includes ethical study, social reform, æsthetic enjoyment and improvement."

In 1870 a plan was formed, resulting in a union called the "Friendly Evening Association." Its object was to provide rooms, warmed and lighted, where working women might meet, and, with the assistance of the ladies of the union, participate in simple entertainments or bring their sewing. Neither money, time, nor labor was spared. But the working women visitors were so few in number that at the end of a year the plan was abandoned. It was, however, adopted by Miss Collins, who established the popular "Boffins Bower." The Woman's Industrial and Educational Union also effects the purpose of the Friendly Evening Association's workers, and the Working Girl's Club is operating successfully on this principle.

In February, 1870, the club responded to General Armstrong's appeal for his Hampton School, by furnishing a room in his normal building. It showed its wider interest by addressing a letter to the Emperor of Russia in behalf of a Polish lady who was sharing her husband's exile.

In 1871 the club took an active part in the "French Fair," and also voted to have a table in the fair for the New England Hospital for Women and Children, in which institution the club has always had a great and helpful interest, often loaning its rooms for supplementary sales after the hospital fairs. An address by Mrs. James T. Fields led to the appointment of a committee to investigate "homes for the poor," and a paper by Rev. E. E. Hale to the formation of a committee on "coffee houses." This year also a concert was arranged to raise money for bringing Polish exiles to this country, after a revolutionary uprising in that unfortunate land. Hon. Josiah Quincy introduced to the club the topic of "Buildings for the Industrial Classes," and, after a paper by Dr. H. I. Bowditch on this subject, this committee was formed for practical operation. This is the origin of the Coöperative Building Association, which has been of great benefit in Boston, and is still actively employing some of our members. A committee was chosen to represent the club at the Women's Congress of Peace, and Mr. Charles Sumner was invited to give a public address on the subject. Two essays only in the month were given at first, and Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Cheney were often called upon to supply deficiencies. When reputation was established and aims better known, the best lecturers and projectors of new reforms or institutions were ready, even desirous, to present them to the New England Woman's Club, where they were sure that a hospitable welcome and appreciative consideration awaited them. Thus, in 1868 a society in Switzerland desired affiliation, Miss McDaniel presenting the proposition. Miss Elizabeth Peabody

made her plea for kindergartens; Mr. Henry James, Sr., gave a lecture for the pecuniary benefit of the club; Madame Kriege pleaded for industrial schools; and Mr. John Weiss presented the subject of women's suffrage, January, 1869, and seemingly settled the question of its being shunned in the club altogether.

During the early years the club was much indebted to a few leaders who deserve to be held in remembrance. Mrs. Caroline M. Severance, coming from Ohio, inspired all by her profound belief in woman's influence upon social and reformatory work. She remained the president until 1871, when her removal to California compelled her resignation.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe succeeded her, and the twin spirits, Mrs. Howe and Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, were the reliable forces in the club; the former by her poetical talent and social graces, her power of sympathy and wise thought; the latter by her fertility in resources, her ready pen, and her high intellectual standards. Among the valued helpers were Miss Lucy Goddard, well known for her untiring activity at the head of the Business Committee and her enthusiasm for women's progress; Miss Abby W. May, for her wise counsels in times of doubt, her judicious plans for work, and her executive ability; Mrs. H. W. Sewall, for her playful, gracious manner and fertility of resource for the entertainments, and her fine poetical fancy, combined with such remarkable financial ability as to succeed, when treasurer, in so managing the small finances as to free the club from debt; and Miss Lucia M. Peabody, the devoted secretary, for the faithfulness of her records, which gave order and dignity to all the deliberations of the board, thus placing the club work on the solid foundation which insures an enduring structure. Through the known character of these and a few other leading members, the club was to gain a reputation which would warrant it inviting the best thinkers to present their views before it.

From the beginning, the lack of ability among women for free discussion of topics presented was acknowledged, and attempts were made to cultivate this power by setting apart an occasional afternoon for general conversation upon a given topic.

In October, 1871, it was decided that one Monday afternoon in the month should be thus occupied, and a committee was appointed to have charge of the afternoon. But it was not until 1874 that this measure was fulfilled according to the plan proposed, when Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells infused into it new life and enforced the purpose, namely, to seek for the unused talent in the club.

In 1872 an "Education Committee" was formed. This was composed of members desirous of opening the Public School Board of Boston to women. Mr. Samuel E. Sewall, Rev. Rufus Ellis, Mr. John Parkman, and others gave

valuable counsel and assistance. The committee divided this work systematically by ward, and great tact and skill were needed so as not to arouse opposition in advance.

This preparatory labor was so effective that in the autumn of 1874 four women were elected on the school committee by votes of men—Miss Abby W. May, Miss Lucia M. Peabody, Miss Lucretia Crocker, and Mrs. H. C. Badger. The right to seats on the School Board was, however, refused by that body for fear of the unconstitutionality of the election which would invalidate their action.

The Education Committee also invited public school teachers to evening lectures on subjects of special value to them. Dr. Zakrzewska gave one on "Physiology" so satisfactory that a full course was desired; Mr. Walter Smith brought forward the subject of "Drawing in Public Schools"; Mr. J. D. Philbrick, Superintendent of Schools, the need of better training for teachers; Dr. Samuel Elliott, of the Girls' High School, the advantages of "General and Special Study." This led to the discussion of preparatory schools for girls desiring to enter college. Five hundred circulars upon this subject were printed for distribution, and copies were sent to principals of high and normal schools in Massachusetts to ascertain the sentiment of education upon this point. This agitation of the subject was one of the means toward the establishment of the Girls' Latin School.

Still believing in some practical work as one of its duties, the club, in 1873, after an address on the subject of "Dress Reform" by Miss Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, appointed a special committee to consider the subject fully and report at the annual meeting in 1874. The committee consisted of zealous workers, with Mrs. Abba G. Woolson, chairman, and Miss C. Alice Baker, secretary. Counsel was sought from such authorities as Dr. Mary J. Safford, Dr. and Mrs. Dio Lewis, Miss Louisa Brown, Mrs. Henry Whitman, and Mrs. Joshua Kendall. A plan was formed for a series of lectures, and a subscription paper was circulated to defray expenses. The committee soon became a bureau of correspondence throughout the United States; a working committee, indeed, approving patterns, contending against the use of patents, buying material for manufacture, opening a store in Winter Street for the sale of dress-reform garments, defending themselves against an untrustworthy agent (even invoking the aid of the law), and negotiated for the sale of the business when it was sufficiently established to have prospects of being self-sustaining.

In 1874 Rev. Dr. E. E. Hale's address on the subject of "Seaside Homes for Poor Children" led to the appointment of a committee to consider the project, and the club gave its helping hand.

In 1876 the club removed from Tremont Place to No. 4 Park Street, and

in 1879 to No. 5 Park Street, in order to control a whole building, subletting the part it did not occupy. In 1877 the club was incorporated under these terms:

"To establish and maintain a place for social meetings for the prosecution of literary, scientific, and artistic purposes."

This act of incorporation obliged the club to change its president, Mrs. Howe at that time being a non-resident, and the constitution requiring a resident member for that office.

Mrs. Cheney was the choice of the club, and later, from 1878 to 1880, Miss Abby W. May filled the office. Excepting for these intervals, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe has remained the president from 1871 to the present time (1897).

The festivals of the club have always been delightful occasions. In 1870 the club celebrated the birthday of Margaret Fuller and of Elizabeth P. Peabody. In 1871 it gave a reception to Monsieur M. A. Coquerel, the French Protestant preacher; to Rev. Robert Collyer, Mrs. H. B. Stowe, and Miss Catherine Beecher; in 1872, to Mr. William T. Harris, of St. Louis; in 1873, to Miss Emily Faithfull and Miss Mary Carpenter, of England; to Miss Anna Brackett, and Prof. Maria Mitchell (this last reception has become an annual one). A festival was held in honor of Michael Angelo's four hundredth birthday, and a farewell reception given to Mrs. C. M. Severance, our first president, prior to her departure to a new home in California; in 1875 one was given to Miss Emily Nunn; in 1876, to the graduates of Vassar College; in 1877, farewell receptions were tendered to Mrs. J. W. Howe, the president, and to Mrs. E. D. Cheney, previous to their departure for a prolonged sojourn in Europe; to Lucy Stone on her sixtieth birthday, and to William Henry Channing on his last visit to America. The club celebrated the centennial of Washington Allston, and held memorial services for Lucretia Mott and Lydia Maria Child.

In 1876 a class in political economy was formed, but was suspended, and renewed in 1884. This class work was made the subject of a special report by the Class Committee on May 29, 1897, and this report, in its entirety, has been kindly furnished for this historical record and will be found appended.

The work of the Monday sessions represents in large part the work of the committees, and a little of the detail will show that the club has constantly retained the high character acquired soon after its commencement.

Authors of plans for human advancement continued to solicit active interest in their ideas. Thus, Mr. George P. Angell solicited interest in his proposed newspaper, *Our Dumb Animals*, the organ of the Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Mr. George Geoog, of Geneva, Switzerland, for his "League of Peace and Liberty," whose cause he came to represent in

America; Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska, for "Hospitals for Women, Managed by Women"; Dr. Mary J. Safford, for "Cremation"; Mrs. N. P. Leonard, of Springfield, for "State Care of Neglected Children"; Mr. Robert Treat Paine, for the "Associated Charities"; Miss Mary E. Very, for "Vacation Schools"; Mr. Michael Anagnos, for "Education of Deficient Children"; Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz, for "The Women's Industrial and Educational Union"; Rev. A. D. Mayo, for "Education in the New South"; Professor Goodwin, for "The Classical School in Athens"; Pundita Ramabai, for "The Women of India"; Mr. Edward Robinson, for "The Museum of Fine Arts"; Prof. W. C. Winslow, for the "Egyptian Exploration Fund"; Mrs. H. R. T. Wolcott, for "The Society for the Protection of Children"; Dr. M. E. Zakrzewska, for "Coffee Houses," as substitutes for drinking saloons; Mr. Booker T. Washington, for "Tuskegee Institute"; Miss Vida Scudder, for "College Settlements"; Miss Mary Allen, for "Physical Culture for Women"; Mr. Horace Bunstead, for "Atlanta University"; Miss H. D. Devereux, for "Sloyd" in our public schools; Mrs. Noble, for "American Sympathy for Russian Women." A collection of sixty dollars was made at once. A collection of fifty dollars has been made yearly.

Mr. Samuel H. Scudder appealed for a zoölogical garden in Boston; Prof. John Ordway, of the Institute of Technology, for industrial education.

The Art and Literature Committee provided gifted essayists and speakers, who, instead of retiring silently, as speakers usually do at the close of an address, found themselves the centre of a respectful, appreciative circle.

Significant of recent literary development is the following recorded comment upon the gifted Sarah Starr's essay, in 1875, on Robert Browning's poems: "a loving, appreciative tribute to the poet's genius, but the discussion languished from want of interest in the poet's works." Now Browning Clubs are flourishing. Thomas Davidson read a scholarly treatise on Aristotle's philosophy; "audience small and unappreciative" is the comment recorded. Now one of our women lecturers chooses the theme and discourses ably to ready hearers.

In 1878 an historian was added to the list of officers. In 1890 the nucleus for a library was started by contributions of books, and a supply of magazines for general reading in the club-rooms.

The desire for friendly relations with other clubs was steadily growing, when, in 1882, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indiana, sent a letter to us, expressing the strong feeling in the West for affiliation with the older Eastern clubs. In 1888, to meet this desire, a Correspondence Committee was instituted by our board; their duty was to commence a correspondence which would open a way to affiliation. A printed list of questions was prepared by them, and sent to as many women's clubs throughout the country as could be

found. In 1889 delegates from clubs in Melrose, Winchester, Danvers, East Boston, Providence, Malden, West Newton, met the committee for counsel, and reported that their clubs were modelled after the New England Woman's Club in essential points. The Correspondence Committee's work was supplanted by that of the General Federation of Clubs, which the New England Woman's Club joined in 1891. This general federation seemed, however, to call for local or State unions.

In January, 1893, therefore, the New England Woman's Club sent invitations to women's clubs in Massachusetts to send delegates for a conference as to the expediency of forming a union of Massachusetts clubs. Over fifty delegates met in the club-rooms. The president acted as chairman. An earnest discussion followed, and a committee was appointed to prepare a constitution. In April a meeting for consideration of this document was held. Twenty-two clubs were represented, and the constitution presented by the committee was ratified after some slight changes. A meeting was appointed in June for choice of officers, and for decision upon the name for the association. Besides the twenty-two clubs present by delegates, several other clubs expressed their desire to join the union, and thus the Massachusetts State Federation was formed.

The social side of the New England Woman's Club has been cultivated by club teas, occasional luncheons, conversational meetings, and brilliant anniversary gatherings. These "teas" were notable for their extreme simplicity: bread and butter, salt fish or dried beef, and tea; this was the regular course. Whenever any more appetizing food appeared, it is recorded, and the word "sumptuous" even is used. The number of tea partakers was small, but the social character of the occasion compensated for minor deficiencies. Wit, humor, nonsense, reigned supreme, and the epithets "merry," "delightful," and the like, often occur in the private records. Charades, tableaux, acted ballads, scenes from Dickens, French plays, small farces, added to the hilarity of the occasion. This "club tea" was, however, deemed by some persons to be an innovation of a doubtful character. The burlesque report, given at a club tea by Mrs. Abba G. Woolson, the witty chairman of the committee, is recorded. "Poetical picnics" began in 1870. Any member might bring an offering in verse. They had for contributors J. G. Whittier, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Rev. J. F. Clarke, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Sewall, and other lights.

They continued until 1884, when they ceased, and have never been revived. The club honors its own leading members by occasional observance of their birthdays, by farewell and welcoming-home receptions of its president when long journeys have separated her from the club. No better record of this part of the work can be given than came from the pen of Mrs. Ednah D.

Cheney, of the Art and Literature Committee, to which the duty of observance of extraordinary occasions is assigned. On the twenty-fifth anniversary festival of the club she said :

" In keeping our silver wedding to-day and rejoicing over our numerous offspring, we are irresistibly impelled to speak of our club as a home, and of the tie that binds us together as a family tie. If it be possible to know a more sacred relation, I wish to say a word showing how we have known here a communion of souls, broader if not closer than the family tie, which we might not irreverently say has made this a true church to us, a company bound together by high thought and tender love." Mrs. Cheney enumerated in detail the festival occasions previously mentioned, and closed her tribute with a vivid picture of the two sisters, Sarah Grimké and Angelina Grimké Weld. " Thus," she said, " our club has been a shrine for the noblest aspirations, honoring alike the living and the dead."

In 1881 the fee for life membership was raised to one hundred dollars, and an entrance fee of five dollars in addition to the ten dollars, annual fee.

In 1891 the board issued a circular to the members, proposing to ask the legislature for a charter for the New England Woman's Club Joint Stock Building Company, to have the power to issue stock and mortgage bonds, but no definite action has yet been taken.

In 1893 a circular was issued, which, it was felt, would provide more opportunity for members to take an active part in literary or social club work. The text was as follows:

I. The four committees having charge of the regular afternoon exercises—that is, (1) Art and Literature, (2) Discussion, (3) Work, (4) Education—shall consist of ten members each, and shall be chosen by the Board of Directors.

The chairman of each of these committees shall be a director.

II. The Business and Building Committees shall be chosen by the directors.

III. Committees on—

(a) Classes.

(b) Hospitality, including afternoon tea, and refreshment to speakers.

(c) Decoration.

(d) Amusement, with club tea.

(e) Music, with provision for festivals, etc., shall be appointed by a committee chosen by the club at the annual meeting.

That all members of the club may be called into active work, and thus make the members better acquainted, and the various talents for executive work, or writing, or discussion, better known.

IV. Committees may be formed to consider topics of interest, such as—

1. Conditions of life in New England.

2. Historical research relating to our own country, particularly genealogical and colonial.

3. Temperance and kindred reforms.

4. Current events.

5. Club library, book reviews, and recommendation of books.

These committees shall have the privilege of occupying the fifth Monday in the month when such occurs, or, if left vacant, these Mondays shall be in charge of the Entertainment Committee.

These committees shall consist of all who wish to join them. A slip shall be sent to each member of the club, to ascertain on what committees she would like to serve.

No person shall be a member of more than three committees, or chairman of more than one.

The number of members is now about three hundred and fifty. The membership of men, twenty-three in the beginning, has grown steadily less with time. Speakers, and essayists, too, at first so largely men, are now more largely women.

Officers for 1897 are: President, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; vice-presidents, Mary C. Ames, Angelina A. Brigham, Ednah D. Cheney, Anna H. Clarke, Lucy Goddard, Delia M. Gregory, Caroline A. Kennard, Phebe M. Kendall, Anna C. Lodge, Eleanor Mack, Caroline M. Severance, Judith W. Smith, Kate Gannett Wells, Electa N. L. Walton, Dr. Marie E. Zakrzewska; secretary, Lucia M. Peabody; corresponding secretary, Lucy F. Brigham; historian, Julia A. Sprague; treasurer, Florence Everett; auditor, Caroline A. R. Whitney; directors, Alice A. Burditt, Helen Farwell, Lois Frothingham, Clara R. Gay, S. A. Merrill, Olive A. Perry, Eva Channing, Mary A. C. Livermore.

The New England Woman's Club has never allowed reports of their meetings. The presence of reporters is not permitted, and no member is allowed to give or in any way to facilitate a report. The club is considered a private institution and its affairs its own.

REPORT OF CLASS COMMITTEE OF NEW ENGLAND WOMAN'S CLUB, 29th OF MAY, 1897

The need of a Committee on Class-work in our club was not felt until 1886, when one was instituted to be, as was stated by the board, "A bureau of information on the subject of classes, to bring together those desiring to pursue the same studies, to assist in their organization into classes, and to report yearly their condition."

Your speaker has held the chairmanship since the organization of the committee, and on now retiring felt that a brief review might be acceptable.

I would like therefore to combine my duties as class chairman and as historian to-day, and look backward a little farther than this year simply.

Classes are nearly coeval with the club, as the botany class was organized

in 1872. I feel almost as if I were a centenarian when looking back I recognize the great change from the time when a woman's club was an unknown quantity and class-work for adult women (not in seminaries) was non-existent. *Now* a half page at least of a prominent Boston newspaper is set apart weekly for a condensed account of women's clubs in a small district of Massachusetts, and each club has its quota of classes. Formerly I was beset with inquiries as to what the phrase "class-work" meant, and a distinct explanation of the mystery was needed; *now* I should smile in astonishment at the ignorance of the inquirer. So differing, however, are the attractions of club-life to our members, that to some class-work is still an unknown quantity, while, on the other hand, to some it is the most important part; to some the club seems to be only an appendage to the class, to still others *that* connection even hardly exists, the class being the sole attraction. Yet the connection is vital; the class has its roots in the club association, without which it would not have come into existence. All the branches draw life from the same trunk.

Classes having a short duration only, have been formed at different times, continuing but one or two years. The class having a continued existence next in length to that of the botany class is the senior English literature class, formed in 1877; although the political economy class was formed earlier, 1875, and after three years was suspended, then renewed in 1880. It was under the charge of Miss Abby W. May until her death; since then Miss Lucia M. Peabody has directed its vigorous existence.

The class in French language was formed in 1887, suspended for a short time, and revived under Mr. J. W. Tuttle (a member) in 1894.

A second class in English literature was formed in 1887, under Mrs. E. E. F. Kellar; and one in art, under Miss Louisa H. Brown, in the same year. In 1886 a class in German began its work, and with some interruptions was continued until 1896. In 1891 a class in current events was formed, and in 1892 a third class in English literature.

From these brief statistics you will see that class-work has been valued by a large number of our members, although, with the increase of club membership, there has not been, during the last two years, a proportionate increase of class membership.

This fact is not to be regarded as showing any diminution in intellectual tastes in our members, but the claims on woman's time and strength have grown to so great dimensions that, as members often say to me, "We cannot really give any more time than we now do to the New England Woman's Club."

We are all aware of the rise of various associations, such as "Daughters of the Revolution," "Daughters of various New England States," "Daugh-

ters of Veterans," and so on, *ad infinitum*, and women are really in danger of being swamped under these pressing demands.

Now, in 1881 there were one hundred and one names on our class lists; this year about seventy.

I will mention here a notable fact, the peculiar condition arising from the excellence or non-excellence of a class leader.

Leaders, as you know, do volunteer work. A natural leader either rises among the class members, or the committee select one from the club by their own knowledge, and solicit her help as a desirable leader. This labor of love is gratefully received, as it should be. But when a leader has been exceptionally qualified, after her death or enforced resignation the class often drops apart. Two classes did so after the death of their leaders, two others after the necessary absence of the leaders for the year.

If, on the other hand, a leader does *not* succeed in interesting the class she attempts to organize, the result is the same.

Another point: A club member, anxious to have a new class arranged, said to me: "I think we ought to find leaders or teachers enough in the club."

I replied: "We generally are so fortunate as to find some one willing to devote her time to the duties of 'leader,' but I fail to see how we can make use of the word 'ought' in any case." If a person accepts the work, it is binding upon her to fulfil the task by constant weekly presence and by preparatory thought more or less upon the subject. She acts only from a genuine desire to do her part in an association to which she belongs, and where each should be willing to participate. It is the *mutual* character of such societies which forms the basis for solid growth. It is *giving* and *receiving* which make vitality.

In 1894 the details of a plan for more general participation by members in club life were prepared by a leading director in response to a desire for such expressed by many members. A circular was prepared containing a list of subjects for consideration; these were distributed among the members and replies requested, stating in which section the *member would like* to work. But the interest of the majority of the members was so slight that no permanent results followed. "Current events," "local history," and "current literature" were the most interesting themes, judging by the replies received.

The committee in charge of this section work report: "That the move seems to be in the right direction; with the present size of the club some systematic subdivision is necessary to keep the club from becoming a course of Monday lectures simply." The report closes as follows:

"Among the possibilities of the future we see the enrollment of every member under one or more sections (with or without active coöperation); a

larger range of subjects, particularly in the line of the problems of the day, and the occupying the larger proportion of the Monday afternoons by the club itself through these organized divisions, thus bringing members more in touch with each other, and calling out into the light each member's hidden talents."

The result of this experiment was not what the committee hoped for, showing, however, that our members are satisfied with the existing methods of participation in club life. Whenever more is desired the way is open through a revival of the methods proposed. Perhaps some feel as one member does who said to me: "Classes? What does that mean? Are we obliged to join in classes? I hoped I could have here what I wanted most—rest, relief from action of any kind, and be, as it were, ministered unto."

Having thus lightly reviewed the past years, I will now ask your attention to a brief account of the year's work just closed. The classes, in general, report excellent work, though diminished attendance.

The botany class (14) may be seen every Monday noon busy and absorbed in their work around the big table covered with litter; it is an attractive sight, and we are surprised that there is only one such class. All summer long the members, separated in the body, feel the connecting spiritual link, for Nature is everywhere presenting new problems to inquiring minds.

The senior English literature class (9) continue their work; have read William Morris's works, Zola's "Rome," and the "History of Civilization and Decay."

The second English literature class (12), under Mrs. E. C. F. Kellar, seem mutually happy as guide and guided. They have varied their studies by visits to private rooms in the public library, where pictures and books relating to their studies of this year, Florence and Venice, have been placed at their disposal, and the autograph room courteously opened to them.

The third class in English literature (8), under Miss Laura E. Hall, have studied the essayists and facts of the time of the English revolution of 1688, down through the reign of George I.

The political economy class (12) have discussed books relating to those engrossing and ill-understood topics, "Socialism and Anarchy," providing them with abundant sources for profound meditations.

The French class (8) were obliged this year for the first time to engage the services of a teacher outside the club, as no qualified member was able to give the time, as has been usually done. They engaged the services of Professor Guiot. The methods were wholly conversational.

The Italian class (4), under the guidance of Mrs. E. D. Cheney, have read "Vita Nuova," and also an Italian magazine for which they subscribed; it is published in Rome. Through this they feel they gain some knowledge

of present conditions in Italy, and of the social, philanthropic, and progressive movements in Italian life of to-day.

The current events class (10), under Miss E. C. Ward, have animated talks on the events of the day. The system pursued is a mutual one; every member is expected to bring something to the work, and their leader thinks this method is useful in calling forth the ability of each to observe and relate.

A class (6) for the study of Emerson has flourished another year under the guidance of Mr. Malloy, and reports good work. One new class has been formed this year; it is for the study of Shakespeare, and is guided by Mrs. M. Wilmarth, an enthusiastic scholar of the "immortal bard." They do not simply read; they study the great dramas, using various commentaries and critiques. They have in this way read six comedies, four romances, one tragedy, and one historical play. They held extra sessions—on the Twelfth-day for the reading of "Twelfth Night," with its traditional accompaniment of a Twelfth-cake, and on St. David's Day, March 1st, for the reading of "Henry V.," previous to the attending of a public reading of the play by Dr. Furners. April 23d they celebrated the birth, and commemorated the death of Shakespeare by appropriate readings. On May-day they read "As You Like It," following it with a box-lunch, and refilling the boxes with wild violets picked in the forest of Arden—*alias* the garden of their leader.

I give these details that we may see how class-work promotes the social attractions of united intellectual association. When a fifth Monday occurs in a month it is under the charge of the Class Committee. In November last Mrs. M. L. Todd gave an instructive astronomical lesson, as we may term it, as she described her experiences in observing in Japan the eclipse of the sun in 1896.

On the fifth Monday in March the historian was requested to introduce some of the worthies of our early club days to the newer members of to-day, as it was certain that many of these are unaware how goodly a company assisted in preparing this first woman's club for what it has since become.

Those who were present will remember with pleasure the procession as it defiled before them, each bearing his or her document, letters, or manuscript, with the signature of each. Said a member to me afterward, "What a fine array of names on your list!"

First came our early president, Mrs. C. M. Severance, with affectionate words of greeting from the Pacific coast. I will not here repeat the names of those who are still with us for our joy and comfort, and whose poems and words of wise counsel formed a part of the offering from the autograph book of the club, as preserved by the historian. But for the benefit of those who may not have been present, let me repeat the names of others who have

passed from earthly scenes: J. G. Whittier, A. A. Alcott, Samuel E. Sewall, Lucy Stone, William Lloyd Garrison, Sr., Lucy Goddard, Abby W. May, George Ripley, Maria Mitchell, James Freeman Clarke. Their words of wisdom and of cheer were gladly listened to. Then our president, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, gave some charming reminiscences of those early days, recalling in her own lively manner many pleasant episodes; then, after reading it aloud, gave to our collection a humorous poem of our lamented member, her daughter, Julia R. Anagnos. Then we sung together a verse of the grand battle hymn.

The historian's only regret is, that time did not allow the full procession to pass, but she promises (if again invited) to marshal another division of the grand corps who are standing in readiness.

Was it not a good and solid foundation on which our club was built, now crumbling away, no sinking here? It is for us now to see to it that the superstructure shall be a worthy continuation of what was so nobly begun. Let there be a harmony of parts, thus assuring a beautifully proportioned and enduring edifice.

The first president of the New England Woman's Club, Mrs. Caroline M. Severance, was born in 1820, in Canandaigua, N. Y. She was educated in Auburn and Geneva, but after her marriage removed to Cleveland. Her enthusiastic reports of a Woman's Suffrage Convention, which she attended at Akron, Ohio, led to a request from the Ohio Woman's Rights Association to prepare and present a memorial to the legislature of Ohio, which she did, under the escort of Dr. Harriett K. Hunt, of Boston, and at the first annual meeting of this association, May 25 and 26, 1853, in the absence of the president, Mrs. Severance was chosen to conduct the session.

Mr. and Mrs. Severance removed from Cleveland to Boston in 1855, for the many advantages of a New England life to themselves and its educational opportunities for their children. Here they were thrown in association with that noble band of men and women represented by Lucy Stone, Abby Kelly Foster, Wendell Phillips, Dr. Harriett K. Hunt, James Freeman Clarke, and others. She was active in organizing and served upon the Board of the New England Woman's Hospital for Women and Children, and soon found herself enlisted in the vigorous work of the anti-slavery movement, her name appearing on the "business" committee in connection with William Ellery Channing, Caroline H. Dall, and Wendell Phillips. Her broad love of humanity and "sorrow at its wrongs," her courage to "stand firm under fire," and her "keen sense of justice" were qualities that endeared her to this noble company.

Mrs. Severance was deeply impressed with the need of organized fellowship among thoughtful women of all classes and creeds. Her enthusiasm and the sympathetic action of friends in Boston and vicinity resulted in the form-

ing, in 1868, of the celebrated New England Woman's Club of Boston, of which she was made first president, serving as such until 1871, when Mr. and Mrs. Severance spent two winters in Tennessee, and in Washington, D. C.

The members of the New England Club tendered a brilliant reception to Mrs. Severance on April 24, 1875, before her departure from Boston for California. There were present : Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, the second president, still in office ; Miss Elizabeth Peabody, Bronson Alcott and his daughter, Mrs.



MRS. JULIA WARD HOWE
(Younger picture)

Livermore, Lucy Stone, William Lloyd Garrison, James Freeman Clarke, and others of the men and women of Boston honored for their intelligence, noble and fearless advocacy of all lines of work of welfare for the race. With hearty appreciation they acknowledged their gratitude to Mrs. Severance for what she had been to the club, and to an even wider circle by her "enthusiasm for humanity" and by the example of her life and character among them.

Mrs. Severance founded the Friday Club in Los Angeles, and was active in the early kindergarten work. Her long life has been one of constant effort and unconscious influence for the betterment of humanity.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, who succeeded Mrs. Severance as the president of the New England Woman's Club, has retained the office, as stated in its record, nearly all the years of its life. She has also been the president of the Massachusetts State Federation from its start, and will doubtless fill the office as long as she lives. Mrs. Howe, though born in New York, and a representative of an old New York family, has lived so long in Boston as to have become identified with New England. She is much more, however, than a representative of a section. As a woman of letters, broad culture, wide sympathies, and universal experience, she is probably, more than any other, a representative American woman, and is so accepted abroad as well as at home.

Gracious in manner, refined, and simple, yet dignified in her personality, at home in the presidential chair as much as by her own fireside, the place she has occupied for thirty years could hardly be filled, nor the influence she has exerted estimated. If she had never written anything but the "Battle Hymn of the Republic" it would entitle her to a high place among the patriot poets of America. Had she devoted herself to a literary career, her place would undoubtedly have been in the front rank of American authors. But her human sympathies were stronger than her desire for personal fame, and her pen has always been at the service of those who needed it. If her name does not stand highest on the roll of literary workers, it certainly lies deepest in the hearts of American women.

Study Clubs—"Light Seekers"

FRIENDS IN COUNCIL

FRIENDS IN COUNCIL, Quincy, Ill., may justly claim the place of pioneer "Light Seeker." The story of this interesting organization is best told in its own words:

"The organization of Friends in Council had in mind the establishing within their circle of acquaintance such a nucleus of thought as would attract and gather about it those who valued the world of thought and who were zealous for self-improvement.

"But long before this idea had been formulated, or any distinct plan for instituting a permanent society, the foundation therefor was really laid in a simple and almost unconscious manner.

"Twelve ladies had concurred in an agreement to meet weekly at the residence of one of their number for educational purposes. They began to do this in the autumn of the year 1866, and continued to meet for twenty-nine weeks. During this time there was not a failure in attendance, except one from sickness and one from absence.

"The hours were occupied in reading, and conversation on the subjects thus opened. One of the books was Lecky's 'History of the Rise and Influence of the Spirit of Rationalism in Europe'; another was Mrs. Childs's 'Progress of Religious Ideas.'

"The following winter the same circle was formed for the reading of Plato, continued for two successive winters. During the progress of this disciplinary study it became impressed upon the minds of all that with a form of government which would secure unity and method a permanent society for mental cultivation might be successfully established.

"In February, 1869, a gathering of ladies to the number of twenty-two took place in the lecture hall of the Quincy Young Ladies' Seminary. Measures for organization were then taken, such as preparing a constitution and by-laws, and deciding upon a name for the society. In a few weeks this work was completed. A board of officers was elected, the limited list of membership filled, and a plan for study adopted. By the autumn a pleasant suite



MRS. MCMAHAN, President

MRS. DENMAN, Founder

CLUB-HOUSE AND LIBRARY OF FRIENDS IN COUNCIL, QUINCY, ILL.

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of rooms was in readiness, carpeted, and furnished comfortably and tastefully, partly by donations from members and partly from funds taken from the treasury. Here Friends in Council met for eight years, hoping to be inspired to do something for self-improvement.

"At the close of these years, by invitation of the president, and a senior member of Friends in Council, Mrs. Denman, it moved to larger and more desirable rooms at her own residence.

"To the unflagging interest and untiring energy of this lady, Friends in Council owes much of whatever success it has attained during its whole career, from its embryo stage of existence to its fuller development as a society.

"As it may be of service to some younger society to know how it was rendered practicable for Friends in Council to unite upon and pursue a course of study systematically, an example of its mode of procedure is given.

"In the spring of 1875 the question as to what should be the subject of study for the following year arose for consideration. Each member was invited by the president to bring to the next meeting her written choice, in order that the preferences of all might come before the society. This was done, and the subjects submitted for discussion. Out of the suggestions a few rose to prominence and were delivered to the Board of Directors for a final decision. A course of historical study was the one adopted by the board, and a committee appointed to put it into proper shape for distribution.

"The committee drew up thirty topics, covering the important epochs of the Christian world. These were assigned by lot, one to each member. The topics were as follows:

"State of Roman Empire at the Appearance of Christ. From the Appearance of Christ until the Adoption of Christianity as the State Religion, in 325. Origin and First Appearance of Barbaric Races, which afterwards Overturned both Divisions of the Roman Empire. Fall of Western Division of Roman Empire, in 476. History of Mahometanism. Influence of Charlemagne. The Feudal System. Rise of Free Cities. Saracens in Spain. Crusades—1096—1272. Chivalry—Orders of Knighthood. Fall of the Eastern Division of the Roman Empire. Revival of Ancient Learning—Discovery of the Passage to India by the Cape of Good Hope—The Art of Painting and the Discovery of America—Putting an End to the Middle Ages. Attempts at National Organization—Cortes of Spain—States General of France—Parliament of England. Character of the Fifteenth Century. Reformation in the Sixteenth Century—Causes of Corruption of the Church. Picture of Europe in the Age of Leo X. History of the Jesuits. How Temporal Power Passed from the Clergy and Concentrated in the Hands of the Sovereigns. Eminent Men of the Elizabethan Period. Commercial Influence of the Netherlands. Literature of

the Age of Louis XIV. French Revolution of 1789. German Thought in the last half of the Eighteenth and first part of the Nineteenth Centuries. Present Aspect of England. Present Aspect of Spain. Present Aspect of France. Present Aspect of Germany. Present Aspect of Italy. Present Aspect of Russia.

"The poet, William Ellery Channing, favored Friends in Council with a critical review of the Roman Empire in its ideal conditions, showing that effect follows cause as truly ideally as in the world of events.

"In the year 1877 a text-book was adopted, that of Green's 'History of the English People.' This was a new departure, and the mode adopted was the selection by the president of a portion of the book, and the appointment of two members to report thereon at each meeting, those appointed elaborating or condensing, as found convenient.

"Early in its history Friends in Council received from a gentleman in New York city, through Miss M. A. Fairchild, M.D., a donation of eighty volumes of Swedenborgian books. To this beginning gifts were added from members and others, and purchases made by the society.

"In the summer of 1878, in order to acquire a legal title to hold a library, a charter was applied for, which, being granted, Friends in Council came into immediate possession of a large number of volumes tendered them by the trustees of the Quincy Young Ladies' Seminary.

"The story of later development is delightfully told in an address by the then president, Mrs. Anna B. McMahan, at an anniversary in February, 1892:

"Looking over the period of my membership in Friends in Council, a period which dates back to the very early days of the organization, and covers just half the whole number of years in my life, I realize that the society has been in that life one of its great shaping forces. It calls forth my most loyal and grateful feelings, and I am moved to linger awhile among its pleasant reminiscences.

"To this day I recall every detail of the interview in which Mrs. Denman, of blessed memory, the founder of the society, called to announce to me my election to membership. The offer of a seat in the Cabinet of the United States would have surprised me less; these ladies, so much older than myself, of whose meetings I had heard, seemed to me like Virgil's women, all "goddess-born." I remember regretting that I should happen to be wearing an apron at such a momentous hour, and I asked timidly what was required of members. Mrs. Denman explained that generally some book was read aloud, that remarks were made or papers written on questions that might come up. I assured her that never, no, never, could I speak to such an august company, nor could I write much. She kindly reassured me, and called for me on the following Tuesday to mitigate the trying ordeal of a first appearance.

“I can only mention a few of the epochs of those early days, such as when I was asked to read a chapter from Cousin's “History of Philosophy,” the usual reader being absent; also, when I gained courage, though with quaking limbs and trembling voice, to read aloud something of my own selection. It was about the Middle Ages. In those days we never mentioned anything more modern than mediæval times, and more commonly we tarried in Egypt or ancient Greece. My first original contribution was called “Method of the Study of Mind.” I remember that one member praised this very much, saying that “it was so good, that she could scarcely believe that any woman wrote it.” The dear old lady may well have indulged her doubts; had she been at all familiar with Maudsley's first chapter of the “Physiology of the Mind,” she would have discovered a similarity too great to be accidental. I am not sorry for my sins at that time, nor ashamed to confess them. I am glad, however, for the oblivion which time mercifully grants, and that papers are so little remembered except by the writers thereof. I should be grieved, indeed, if compelled to defend the position which I expounded so glibly twenty years ago. Being absolutely ignorant of the arguments on the other side, I was an easy convert to Maudsley, and maintained that the only way to study mind was through a physiological knowledge of brain and nerve-tissue. Monstrous doctrine! But fortunately it shocked no one, possibly because the listeners recognized as little as the reader what out-and-out materialism it was.

“In the fall of that same year (1873), the society being then four and a half years old, occurred the most important step that had yet been taken. A programme was outlined on one general subject continuing throughout the year, with subdivisions assigned to individuals, a plan which proved to be so satisfactory that it remains as the basis of our methods to the present day. It had the inestimable advantage of giving time for preparation. The general subject was “The History of Painting”; my special topic, “The Venetian School.” Think of it, friends! A person who knew nothing of art principles, who had never seen a painting, nor perhaps even an engraving of any work of the Venetian school, with such a theme!

“Those who had been abroad and knew something about the subject at first-hand, were very good not to laugh in my face. But at least I was industrious. Never before had I spent so much labor in the preparation of anything, nor, I presume, shall I ever do so again. Everything that I heard or saw seemed somehow to bear a relation to Venetian art, and into my paper it all went.

“Neither was fine writing nor flight of rhetoric wanting, for the spell of Ruskin was upon me. The reading of this paper took nearly two hours. Few subjects in heaven or earth were left untouched, but almost any title beside

Venetian art would have been equally fitting. Still even such an omnivorous compilation was a decided gain over the Maudsley cribbing.

"This phase of our history lasted about ten years. Ancient philosophy, ancient history, and high-sounding names, these were in turn our topics. One read and the others listened with more or less attention, for in those days fancy work was often in our hands, but seldom did any one speak.

"There is an Amherst College tradition that when a certain Professor Emerson was once to begin a course of lectures before that university, the president said to him: "I suppose, Professor, you will begin your lectures on zoölogy by laying down certain fixed rules and laws that govern the science." "No," replied Professor Emerson, "I shall begin with a bushel of clams."

"When the corresponding secretary, in a recent report, said that the programmes coming into her hands showed a decline in the popularity of the study of art and an increase of favor toward the topics of the times, it shows that clubs are beginning to recognize that a bushel of clams, which each person may examine for himself to discover what is inside, may be a better field for study than a text-book of definitions. Yet I am not deriding these old days of second-hand work. They were a necessary step in the evolution of our club life; they gave us the habit of expressing ourselves on paper; they taught us not to fear the sound of our own voices; they made us acquainted with each other's mind and thoughts, since even a compilation gives an opportunity for the expression of individuality. With the year 1883 we entered upon a new epoch. The course of study was not limited to one topic, but four subjects were outlined. This arrangement took account of the diversity of tastes, provided for some originality of treatment, and is the one which still continues in favor after nine years.

"In this new departure we had fairly entered upon the period of original thinking. It is too much to claim of Friends in Council that all of the work done now is of the truly student-like or creative order, but it is not too much to say that a great deal of it is really admirable, and worthy of the larger audience which some of its papers have gained through subsequent publication in journals and magazines. If I read the signs of the times aright we are at least on the right road and travelling in the right direction.

"And now the little moral of all this tale is, that we ought to be somewhat exacting of this society, but not too exacting. For one, I am so grateful for its influence upon my life that I do not care to quarrel with it. When I hear the criticism that we are not public-spirited enough, or philanthropic enough, or social enough, it hurts me—hurts as if some friend were maligned. Not any *one* thing can satisfy *all* the interests of life, but if earnestness of purpose, high ideals, and steadfast devotion are worth anything, Friends in Council may be congratulated upon having found and possessed them."

THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

The membership of Friends in Council has not materially changed from year to year, and thus a very strong bond of comradeship has been created. The club owns its building, which is not used for any other purpose. It contains a library of upwards of six hundred volumes, and while furnishing a club home filled with delightful memories, has doubtless been a factor in limiting the membership to an immortal though never-increasing forty.

The meetings are still held weekly, and vacancies begin to occur for the saddest of all reasons. But they are filled, and Friends in Council continues to exit. May it live long and be forever prosperous!

THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB

THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB, of Chicago, is one of the earliest and most steadfast of the women's clubs that have been called "Light Seekers."

The clubs of the same name throughout the country all bear the impress of the seal which it placed upon "intellectual and social culture" as the object of its existence. It was founded June 4, 1873, mainly through the effort of Mrs. Kate Newell Doggett, who was its first president, and remained its presiding officer until 1879.

Among its earliest members were many of those who have since become distinguished in various fields of literature and organized work: Mrs. Ellen M. Mitchell, the well-known student and author; Jane R. Addams, of "Hull House" fame; Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, and others.

Nearly all the presidents of the Chicago Woman's Club received their first club training in the Fortnightly, and it was here that Mrs. Potter Palmer gained her earliest acquaintance with the organized work of women, outside of charities and the church.

The first paper given, on the afternoon of June 20th, was by Mrs. Ellen M. Mitchell, the subject "Culture for Women."

The club year began on October 10th, and the afternoon meetings, at which a paper was given by some member, alternated with open evening meetings, at which a lecture by some well-known gentleman was the attraction.

The early subjects were miscellaneous, but more or less studious and scholarly. Dress and Social Entertainments are followed by "Aspasia," the "Training of Children," "What Knowledge is of Greatest Value to Women?" and "Women as Sincere Friends."

The intimation is curious as showing the current idea that women were not sincerely friendly to each other.

In 1875-76 the work of the Fortnightly took a more distinct turn in the

direction of Greek poetry, philosophy, and art. The male element disappears, and the papers are nearly all by the members; the classic studies are punctuated with music, heredity, and the kindergarten.

Sarah Hackett Stevenson writes upon "Roman Jurisprudence"; Mrs. Henrotin upon the "Rossetti Family, and Their Writings." A suggestive subject is "The Literature of Silence and of Sleep."

In 1888 Amelia Gere Mason gave a paper on the "French Salon of the Eighteenth Century," preceding her fine published work on the same subject. The list of subjects from date of organization till 1896 is fascinating. The classic themes disappear, however, from the later work, and it becomes more miscellaneous in character, but with a modern influence in favor of the scientific and the practical.

The presidents succeeding Mrs. Doggett were: Mary Hunt Loomis, Ellen M. Mitchell, Amanda M. Bliss, Mary Hunt Loomis (a second time), Ellen R. Jewett, Emily E. Macveagh, Susan W. Hamilton, Janet H. Ayer, Mary H. Wilmarth, and for 1897-98, Mrs. Julia A. Ray.

The subjects as outlined for this year, from October 22, 1897, to April 22, 1898, are: "Club and Salon," "A Day with the Poets," "Some Modern Tendencies," "Sketches of Foreign Contemporaries," "Tschaikowsky," "A Group of Poets—Kipling, John Davidson, Verlaine, Bliss Carman, and Johanna Ambrosius." Others are: "New Wine in Old Bottles" (a study in fiction), "The New Writing of History," "Dramatic Expression in Recent Literature," "The Artist in Literature."

There is an annual evening reception in November, and an annual meeting in May. A vast number of clubs have been formed throughout the United States similar in name and aims; always studious, sincere, and somewhat conservative.

The vice-presidents are Mrs. Drusilla Wilkinson and Mrs. J. W. Owen; the secretaries, Mrs. Kate P. Merrill, corresponding; Mrs. F. F. C. Mason; treasurer, Miss Julia C. Kent.

The membership has always been limited. The dues are twenty dollars (entrance fee) and twenty dollars (annual payment), and each member binds herself to take part in the work as assigned to her. It is interesting to see that one of the directors in 1873-74, afterwards president, is on the Board of Directors for 1897-98.

The social side of the Fortnightly has not been prominent, but it has not been absent. Hospitality has been extended to many distinguished persons of both sexes; and there have been occasional "June-day" excursions specially by invitation to the beautiful home of Mrs. Ralph Emerson, of Rockford, so well known in connection with the organized life of women in Chicago and northern Illinois.

The Department Club

THE CHICAGO WOMAN'S CLUB



THE DEPARTMENT CLUB is a "club of clubs," the central source from which flows streams of light and energy that centralize in smaller bodies whose work is specialized and independent, but whose vital current still proceeds from the centre of force, which, in return, receives back renewal of strength and inspiration from its different parts.

This is the ideal of the Department Club, and the one that more nearly embodies it and has been the model of the modern Department Club is the Woman's Club of Chicago.

The Chicago Woman's Club was organized on the 17th of May, 1876, by twenty-one women, who were called together by Mrs. Caroline M. Brown, the founder of the club, and its president for three years. Its objects, as defined in the constitution, are mutual sympathy and counsel, and united effort towards the higher civilization of humanity. It became a chartered organization in 1885. The club is officered, as such societies usually are, with a president, two vice-presidents, a recording and a corresponding secretary, and a treasurer. These, together with the chairman and two directors from each of the departments, form a Board of Directors which has charge of the business of the club. The club is divided into six departments, and every member is required to serve in one. They are as follows: reform, home, education, philanthropy, art and literature, philosophy and science.

The literary meetings of the club are held on the first and third Wednesdays of the month, the exercises consisting of a paper and discussion, the different departments taking turns in supplying the topic and essayist of the day. The second Wednesday is given to regular meetings of the Board of Directors, and the fourth Wednesday to a business session, to which only members are admitted, except by special permission of the board. When a fifth Wednesday occurs it is generally employed for a social reunion.

For seven years the work of the club was almost entirely literary, consisting of essays and discussions at the semi-monthly meetings on subjects connected with the work and study of the various departments.

From the beginning, however, it was earnestly desirous to enter upon some practical work, and this was the chief object of its founders; but it took time to educate the members up to the required degree of courage and experience. At the meeting of December 5, 1883, the question, "Shall Our Club Do Practical Work?" was brought before the society, the discussion resulting in a vote which authorized the departments to enter upon such work as they might select.

The motto of the club is "*Humani nihil a me alienum puto*," and the pledge of the membership reads as follows: "Holding my membership in Chicago Woman's Club as something sacred and worthy of unfailing loyalty, I will sustain the club in its good work and guard its reputation as long as I am a member."

The wisdom of a preparation, and for finding the directions in which the club could best employ its energies, has been clearly shown in the splendid work accomplished, and the equipment exhibited on several occasions for drafting off from its forces the requisite agencies for use in an emergency.

This was strikingly exhibited during the hard year which followed the Columbian Exhibition in Chicago. A meeting of the city clubs was called by the Chicago Woman's Club, a plan of immediate relief organized, a large sum raised for distribution, and employment given for needy women at a stated sum, to continue till they could be better placed.

The six links in the badge of membership represent the six departments of work. The general subject of the Department of Education for 1896-97 was "Fundamental Principles of Education." Some of the divisions represented in lectures and papers were: "Municipal Reform in Relation to Education," by Alice Bradford Wiles; "The Ideal in Education," A. M. Snively; "The New Education," "Nervous Fatigue in Children," "Mythology," "Herbert's Doctrine of Interest," "Mistakes in Educational Habits," "Music in Early Education," "Possibilities of a Normal School."

These topics were treated, some by men and some by women.

In the second year of the Art Department the subjects treated were: "Individuality in its Application of Technical Skill in Personal Expression"; "Style"; "Characteristics"; "The Subjective Element"; "Schools of Painting," divided, according to subject, into portrait, landscape, historical, religious, allegorical, and others; according to nationality, Italian, French, Dutch, and the like; according to manner, Florentine, Barbizon, pre-Raphaelite, Impressional, and others.

The class in domestic science has for a lecturer Mrs. Helen Campbell; but its division of topics is distributed, and represented by its members.

The programme of literary study in the Art and Literature Department for 1896-97 took as its general topic "English Prose Fiction." The outlines



FOUNDER AND PRESIDENTS, CHICAGO WOMAN'S CLUB—FIRST GROUP

MRS. H. H. FRANK
MRS. JULIA HOLMES SMITH, M.D.

MRS. HELEN M. SHEDD
MRS. CAROLINE M. BROWN, Founder
MRS. CELIA PARKER WOOLLEY

MISS LEILA G. BEDELL, M.D.
MRS. C. W. HEYWOOD



PRESIDENTS, CHICAGO WOMAN'S CLUB—SECOND GROUP

MRS. L. H. COONLEY
MRS. M. C. REMICK

DR. SARAH HACKETT STEVENSON
MRS. LUCY C. FLOWER
MRS. JULIA PLATO HARVEY

MISS ADA A. SWEET
MRS. F. L. BALL

of treatment of the types of the novel are very interesting. Take the following:

"HENRY ESMOND." By William M. Thackeray.

Discuss the book from the following points of view:

1. As a story. Lacking in any great central situation, by what means does it take hold of the reader and leave its vivid impression on the memory?

2. As history. The art and method by which the spirit of the age is reproduced, so that we seem to live again in the time of Queen Anne.

3. As a philosophy of life.

(a) The tedium of being placed on a pedestal (book i., chap. 7).

(b) The tragedy of marriage as revealed in book i., chap. 11.

(c) The latent power of loving in Beatrice Esmond, as described by herself at the close of book iii., chap. 7; its possibility of a woman in her nature and in her surroundings.

(d) Truth of the statement that "women have an instinct of dissimulation."

"ROMOLA." By George Eliot.

Discuss this book from the following points of view:

1. The evolution of a beautiful soul in the character of Romola.

2. The analysis of deterioration in the charming personality of Tito.

3. The great historic background, including the character of Savonarola and the secret of his influence.

Discuss the following questions, raised by the text of the book:

1. Does Virgil paint a perfect traitor (chap. 4)? See Virgil's "Æneid," book ii.

2. Qualities desirable for world leaders; cause of a pulpy condition of mind (chap. 39).

3. Comment on Romola's last answer to Savonarola (in chap. 59).

4. Discuss Romola as a type. Compare with Kingsley's "Hypatia" and Mrs. Ward's "Marcella."

Through various departments the club has engaged in many lines of practical work, most of which are related to the interests of women. One of its first undertakings was to secure the appointment of women physicians in the Cook County Insane Asylum and in that at Kankakee for the care of women patients. Through the abuses which were then discovered, a thorough investigation into the management of county institutions was entered upon by the State Board of Charities, resulting in many desirable reforms. In 1893 the club endorsed a bill for a new State asylum, embodying improved methods, to the practical completion of which some of the members gave much time and work.

One of the early undertakings was the establishment of a kindergarten

in one of the public school buildings, and by this and successive efforts the kindergarten system was introduced into the public schools of Chicago.

The associations organized under the auspices of the Chicago Woman's Club are the Protective Agency of Women and Children, the Physiological Institute, the Society of Physical Culture and Correct Dress, the Public School Art Association, and the Chicago Political Equality League. The club has taken an active part in securing compulsory education, sending delegates to Springfield in its behalf.

One important enterprise of the club indicating its public spirit was the appointment of a committee to visit Washington to petition President Harrison for the reinstatement of women employes in the Internal Revenue Office who had been discharged by the new incumbent. Another was the vote in favor of the Sunday opening of the World's Fair, and the appointment of delegates to wait upon the Durborrow Committee in Washington, December, 1892.

The five women sent to Washington in 1890 were Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, Dr. Sarah H. Stevenson, Mrs. O. W. Potter, Mrs. G. W. Adams, and Miss Hamilton.

These ladies called in person upon President Harrison, and presented the following memorial, which is well worth preserving:

"To his Excellency, the President of the United States: We, the undersigned, representing the Chicago Woman's Club, desire most respectfully to bring to your attention an official action of one of the government officers here, which we consider so great an injustice as to entitle us to seek redress at your hands.

"Since the close of the Civil War women have been employed in various offices, and have done their work so well that neither political party has ever thought of denying them the right to such positions as they were qualified to fill.

"Given such places at first as a debt of gratitude to women who had worked faithfully in hospital wards, or whose fathers, husbands, or brothers had given their lives for the country, they have been retained because they have deserved to be retained; because the efficiency of the public service has nowhere been greater than where they were employed; and because, being equally with men bread-winners for their families, as well as taxpayers, they were equally entitled to the benefits of their common country.

"The Hon. Christopher Mamer, recently appointed Collector of Internal Revenue for Chicago, immediately, upon his accession to office, announced his intention of removing all women from that office. He has stated further that he does this as a matter of principle, believing that all places under the

government belong to voters as rewards for party work. Following this policy, he has already removed three of the eight women employed in that office, and it is understood the others will soon share the same fate. Some of these women have served through two or more previous administrations, and all are competent clerks, against whom no complaint has ever been made, and against whom Mr. Mamer makes no complaint. On the contrary, they have been especially commended the past year by the visiting revenue agents.

"We are well aware that public exigencies may require the removal of any person from office, and we have no desire to interfere in any way with such necessity, nor to interpose in the interests of any individual; neither do we ask any benefit from civil service laws not applicable to the present case. Were any of these women to be replaced by other women we should have nothing to say. We simply protest, in the name of the women of the United States, against the principle announced by Mr. Mamer; namely, that women, not being of service as politicians, have no claim to consideration in the distribution of the offices of the government. We feel that such a retrograde step will be received not only as an insult to women, but as a reflection on the policy of the present administration.

"Public sentiment has so fully recognized the right of women to enter all these avenues of employment that to deny it now can but be disastrous to persons or parties who do it. The late administration so fully recognized this fact that not only were women previously appointed retained, but many others were appointed. Certainly this administration cannot afford to close its eyes to the progress of the age, and exhibit a less liberal and enlightened policy than its predecessors.

"We are fully aware that the positions occupied by the women in the Internal Revenue Office do not come under the regular rules of the civil service, and we acknowledge fully the right of any officer to make appointments in his own department within government regulations. But we do question the right of any government employé to refuse employment to any class of citizens simply because they are not voters, or to govern his office on a principle that must receive the condemnation of all reputable people and bring odium on his party.

"With great respect,

"Mrs. James M. Flower, President of Woman's Club.

"Miss Leila G. Bedell, M.D., First Vice-President.

"Mrs. W. O. Carpenter, Second Vice-President.

"Mrs. Wm. T. Brown, Recording Secretary.

"Mrs. Kate G. Huddleston, Corresponding Secretary.

"Mrs. Frederick A. Smith, Treasurer."

In its line of educational work the club raised through its members and friends the sum of about \$40,000 for the Glenwood School, an industrial school for boys. It also inaugurated the movement to raise money for a dormitory for women in the Chicago University. The Glenwood School always keeps a member of the Education Committee on its Board of Trustees in acknowledgment of the interest evinced in its movements.

One of the most interesting of the works carried on by the Chicago Woman's Club is a jail school, or a class for boys imprisoned for minor offences. The school was begun, and drooped under successive managers, until it was taken hold of by a committee of the Chicago Woman's Club, and placed under its present teacher, Miss Hathorn. Since then it has been a great success. It is a peculiarity of the school that the pupils are always changing. They attend school only as they are kept in confinement, sometimes a day, sometimes a month, sometimes several months at a time.

The number of scholars, too, varies continually. Commonly there are about thirty in a class. Often, however, this falls off nearly half, and once in a while it is almost doubled. The month in which the school shows the greatest number of pupils is September. For the most part the instruction offered comes in the form of "talks." Learning from a book is a thing for which the juvenile offender has an extreme distaste, which he manifests by a refusal to sit still during the operation. "Numbers" he has no objection to, and arithmetic is one of the favorite studies. Geography, too, is a study he likes. Both these are a part of the regular exercises. But spelling and reading are most heartily disliked, and music must be emotional, Salvation Army songs or those current on the streets.

Besides its work in the management of county charitable institutions, Chicago Public School Art Association, visitations of schools and other public institutions, in the reform of laws affecting women and children, endeavoring to secure appointment of women physicians in all public institutions where women and children are cared for, teaching in jail schools, supporting School Children's Aid Society, Women and Children's Protective Agency, and the study of parliamentary law, the club has within the last three years studied in its different departments: Household economics, fundamental principles of education, psychology, evolution of ethics, recent investigations in the sciences, some of the works of Browning, and in the art classes it has studied: "How to See Pictures," the "Art of the Sculptor," "Schools of Painting," and cognate subjects. The class programmes are extremely well prepared, and the interest in studies of subjects, and causes, increases rather than diminishes.

The social life of the club has been "its least important feature." Yet there have been some notable occasions of this order in its history. The



READING-ROOM, CHICAGO WOMAN'S CLUB

first large entertainment was a banquet given to the Association for the Advancement of Women in or about the year 1882. During the year of the International Congress of Women at Washington, the club entertained Lady Ashton Dilke, Mrs. Ormiston Chant of England, and Baroness Grifenberg of Finland, and somewhat later, Susan B. Anthony, Mrs. Isabella Beecher Hooker, and Miss Harriet Homer. In May, 1892, it gave a large reception to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, then in session in Chicago, and a year later received the members of the federation and other distinguished women in attendance upon the Congress of Representative Women.

Though there is little social life, so-called, in the club, its spirit is most cordial and friendly, and its atmosphere is one of hospitable sympathy with all women and all workers for the uplifting of humanity. The increasing interest shown by the members in the work of practical helpfulness, proves their sincere understanding of the worth and meaning of the club motto: "*Humani nihil a me alienum puto.*" The most notable features of the

general meetings are the freedom and ease with which so large a proportion of the members take part in the discussions and the high and earnest moral tone which pervades the same. This is the direct outgrowth of the practical spirit of the club and the feeling of strong sisterly pride and affection which binds the members together. Its rooms are always open for the service of the members, and the board room is well furnished, has a long table, comfortable chairs, and every convenience for carrying on the work of the club. The Membership Committee, of which the vice-president is chairman, also meets in this room. There is a quiet room with lounges and easy chairs where members can retire to hold conferences when they desire to be free from interruption. There is a dressing-room with a partition for each member, and a hallway where on club days is seated a representative of the treasurer and assistant, and also one of the Social Committee to receive cards of guests, and hand their names to the president for announcement to the club.

A candidate for membership must be indorsed by five members, who



AUDITORIUM, CHICAGO WOMAN'S CLUB

cannot propose another candidate for that year, and must each have a record of three years' membership in the club.

The entrance fee is fifteen dollars, the annual dues ten; and each committee is liable to be assessed several times in the year for committee work.

The assessment for lunch is small, this being very simple and informal, and rarely shared by guests. The auditorium is simply but effectively arranged. The platform is raised, and the chairs are in a semicircle. A grand piano is on the platform, and the chairs occupied by the president and secretary are very beautiful. They were donated to the club. Palms decorate the platform, and flowers are always on the table in front of the president. Out of the auditorium opens the library, where all the periodicals are kept, American and foreign. The committee rooms are large enough to seat an audience of 100 to 125, and there is also a dining-room and small kitchen.

The club has grown to be an admitted power for good in the city, and its coöperation and influence are continually sought from the outside. Starting with a membership of twenty-one, it now numbers upwards of seven hundred. It has done much to destroy prejudice against the organized labors of women, and to educate women themselves to higher standards of public and private duty, enlarging the sense of individual responsibility and strengthening the bonds of true spiritual fellowship in the world.

The Chicago Woman's Club has had fourteen presidents: Mrs. Caroline M. Brown, founder, and president from 1876-79; Mrs. Julia Holmes Smith, M.D., 1879-81; Mrs. Helen M. Shedd, 1881-83; Mrs. H. H. Frank, 1884-85; Miss Leila G. Bedell, M.D., 1885-87; Mrs. C. W. Heywood, 1887-88; Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, 1888-90, and Mrs. Lucy L. Flower, 1891; Mrs. Julia Plato Harvey, 1892; Dr. Sarah H. Stevenson, 1893; Miss Ada A. Sweet, 1894-95; Mrs. L. H. Coonley, 1895-96; Mrs. F. L. Ball, 1896-97; Mrs. M. C. Remick, 1897-98.

During the present year (1897-98) the club made a new departure. It formed a united study class out of its six departments of work. The chairman was Mrs. W. F. Coleman, and the general subject under which the topics were grouped was: "Great Movements of Thought in the Nineteenth Century." The idea of this united study grew from a desire to conserve energy and time. Varied departments often conflicted, compelling members to forfeit one class in order to attend another. Also the subjects of study in five of the departments were last year closely allied, and could have been studied in unison.

Hence the suggestions came from two departments that a meeting be called of the Programme Committees of all the departments to consider the advisability of coöperation. At that meeting it was voted unanimously to

recommend that the six departments unite in a course of study. A committee of six, including one from each department, was appointed to prepare the topics, which, in turn, were approved by each department. The movement is an experiment. Its success will not involve its repetition. The paper occupies thirty minutes; three invited speakers are each given ten minutes; thirty minutes are devoted to informal discussion, strictly oral, with a time limit of five minutes. Some of the topics are: "The Essential Idea" (Social Unity), "Proposed Solutions of Social and Industrial Problems," "What are Biology and Psychology Doing for Education?" "Certain Home Problems," "Nineteenth Century Characteristics of Music and Painting," "Our Debt to Science."

The art study class in the Art and Literature Department is in its third year, and devotes itself to the study of sculpture, beginning with its origin and relation to primitive man, down to the French and American sculpture of to-day.

The music study class, in the same department, has taken up the evolution of music during the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The general officers for 1897-98 are: President, Mrs. M. C. Remick; vice-president, Mrs. M. A. Dow; recording secretary, Mary R. Plummer; corresponding secretary, Elizabeth Hines Kingdom; treasurer, Emily Starkey.

An excellent provision of the by-laws is that no member of less than three years' standing shall be eligible to elective office, and no member hold office for more than three years consecutively.

Societies auxiliary to the Chicago Woman's Club are: The Women's and Children's Protective Agency, School Children's Aid Society, Public School Art Society, Political Equality League, and the Model Workshop and Lodging House Association.

These societies each have a membership in the Woman's Club ranging from six to twenty-five.

The Civic Club

THE CIVIC CLUB OF PHILADELPHIA

(“Higher public spirit, better social order”)

THE CIVIC CLUB is an evolution in the strictest sense of the word.

“In the good old times of Chan” (so runs the preface to a Chinese book, the “Memoirs of Distinguished Ladies of Ancient Times,” written 125 B.C.)—“in the good old times of Chan the honorable women set such an excellent example that they influenced the customs of the empire; an influence which descended even to the times of the Ching and Wei States.”

How far back, in the centuries, those dim old days were we cannot guess, since they are called “ancient times” by our author of 125 B.C.

One of the most famous of these ancient wise women was Chang-Shi, the mother of Mencius, the most distinguished of all the pupils of Confucius.

His father, dying in early life, left the future scholar to the guardianship of the widow, Chang-Shi; “and the care of this prudent and attentive mother,” says Remusat, “has been cited as a model for all virtuous parents. The house she occupied was near that of a butcher. She observed that, at the first cry of the animals that were being slaughtered, the little Mang, as Mencius was called, ran to be present at the sight, and that on his return home he sought to imitate what he had seen. Fearful that his heart might become hardened, she removed to another house at some distance, but one which proved to be in the neighborhood of a cemetery. The relations of those who were there buried came often to weep upon their graves and make the customary libations. Little Mang soon took pleasure in their ceremonies, and amused himself in imitating them. This was a new source of uneasiness to Chang-Shi, who feared that her son might come to consider as a jest what is, of all things, the most serious, and that he would acquire a habit of levity. Again, therefore, she changed her residence, and went to live in the city, opposite to a school, where her son found examples most worthy of imitation, and soon began to profit by them.”

This incident became the subject of a Chinese proverb which has brought

the name and story of Chang-Shi down to our day. It is "*As formerly, the mother of Mencius chose out a neighborhood for her son.*"

The first civic work in this country of which public record has been made was accomplished by a poor woman in the village of Goshen, N. Y., and is perpetuated upon a brass tablet erected to her memory in a church of that place. She gained a living, and supported a drunken, vagabond husband by washing and charring, but she was actively instrumental in lining the streets of her village with the beautiful shade-trees for which it is famous, planting many of them with her own hands, and rescued the "common" from its degradation as a dumping-ground to the neighborhood.

The brass tablet contains the name of the husband as well as that of the woman, but the town records show that the work of improvement was hers, and that the putting in of his name was a device of the "selectmen" to prevent the women of the future from feeling "set up" because one of their sex had been memorialized.

The modern neighborhood improvement work began with the efforts of Mrs. Mary H. Goodrich, then Miss Mary G. Hopkins, to improve the village of Stockbridge, Mass., in 1853.

During that year she started the Laurel Hill Village Improvement Association, which rescued the neglected cemetery and church green from a condition that reflected upon the refinement and good taste of an old village of literary reputation. Associated with Stockbridge and its neighborhood are the names of Jonathan Edwards, Nathaniel Hawthorne, James Russell Lowell, and many more men of eminence in the church, law, and letters.

The result of the work which Mary G. Hopkins began in 1853 is too well known to need recapitulation. It has made a beauty spot of an entire section of country, including the proximate villages and towns of Lenox, Pittsfield, Great Barrington, and others, and trebled their property value. The raising of property values seems one of the unfortunate incidental possibilities in carrying on any work of public improvement, but this will be less of a detriment as the work becomes more general.

The Woman's Health Protective Association of New York, organized twelve years ago, and which accomplished so great a work in ridding the city of the old slaughter-houses and in substituting the magnificent modern abattoirs, was, and is, a civic club in all but the name, and has been the mother of a dozen robust daughters in other towns and cities.

But the first "civic club" proper, in name and purpose, of which we have record is the Civic Club of Philadelphia, organized January, 1893.

In an address made to the club by the president, Mrs. Sarah Yorke Stevenson, November 3, 1894, she said: "Our aims were distinctly outlined when the club came into existence in January last, when we publicly pledged

ourselves to promote, 'by education and active coöperation, a higher public spirit and a better social order.' In so doing we were arraying ourselves not against any one class of men or any one order of shortcoming, but against the general deficiency which at every turn is felt by those who critically examine into the municipal and intellectual facilities which seem to satisfy the average citizen.

"Our broad and flexible organization, divided into four departments, covering municipal government, education, social science, and art, clearly

defines the scope of our work, and at the same time gives ample freedom to individual ability and to personal preference; whilst the composition of our Board of Directors, formed of the executive officers of each department, secures the homogeneous and closely combined action of the club as a whole wherever its influence can be used as an instrument of progress. For, as a body, we are pledged to advocate and support any measure the tendency of which is to make Philadelphia morally purer and intellectually broader, that will add to its charitable and educational facilities, and that will make it more important as a civilized centre.

"Although our sympathy is wholly with those who are seeking civil service reform, the Civic Club disclaims any political activity.

We are not organized against persons or parties, but against wrong-doing, and for the sake of bringing to the front certain broad principles.

"According to this policy, when our club was invited last spring by the Anti-Spoils League, a powerful body, to coöperate with them in obtaining the endorsement of voters for the National Anti-Spoils movement, our Board of Directors, after referring the matter to a committee of the Municipal Department, upon the recommendation of this committee, declined to do so, and your president answered the request of Mr. William Potts, secretary of the Anti-Spoils League, New York city, in the following terms:



MRS. SARAH YORKE STEVENSON,
President Civic Club, Philadelphia

"As you know, our organization is still young, and its leaders have been feeling their way carefully with a view to making it a useful instrument of progress and a strong influence for good in the community. We feel that, as yet, we should confine our efforts strictly to educational lines and to municipal movements; and although your association can at all times count upon our sympathy and moral support (and we should gladly endorse with our name any effort which, like your own, is calculated to promote a better social order), we feel that we cannot, as a body of citizens *having no political status*, take part with dignity in any political movement entailing upon us the canvassing for votes. All that quiet individual influence can do to further the great cause you have espoused you can depend upon from our members; and as a club we shall do all in our power to propagate the principle which we share with you."

"The club was also invited by the National Civil Service Reform Convention to send delegates to the general convention that was held at Indianapolis. For the same reason that, as disfranchised citizens, we regard it as incompatible with our dignity to take an active part in politics, we declined the invitation with expressions of appreciation."

This extract from the first important statement of principles shows the basis upon which the work was founded, and the direction in which it has been consistently and energetically carried on.

The "unity of thought and of force" in a body of three hundred and fifty fearless women is not to be lightly estimated, and it has been invited to co-operation in Philadelphia with the Municipal League, the Public Education Association, with the Permanent Relief Fund, and the Charity Organization.

In educational matters it has given all its weight to the side of progress. At the time the Board of Education was considering the appointment of a new principal for the Girls' High School it was able to secure the respectful attention of the committee in charge, and though the final result was less than was hoped, the campaign conducted by the Civic Club on behalf of women on the school board was so thorough and well managed as to be an education in methods for every woman engaged in it. The details of the contest are graphically told in "The Story of a Woman's Municipal Campaign," edited by Mrs. Talcott Williams and published by the Civic Club.

Women upon school boards are not, however, new to Philadelphia. Two women, Miss Anna Hallowell and Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, have been and are acceptable and exceptionally useful members of the Board of Education.

The Civic Club of Philadelphia is an interesting study because the members try to know what they talk about.

The Social Science Department began with municipal "house-cleaning," but it did not end there; it soon found itself confronted by political facts

and scientific problems, and it is patiently educating itself up to dealing with them.

The condition of schoolhouses, the proper disposal of household refuse, the care and cleanliness of cellars, have been some of the directions in which the club has secured the coöperation of public officials and private householders, and thus raised a higher standard for the community.

The Art Department has instituted a system of loan galleries or collections of representative pictures, which are sent from one school to another and explained to the children by a teacher or some one assigned to the work. This is in connection with the more general purpose of decorating schoolhouses and introducing music into the public schools.

On March 13, 1897, a number of people, including Mayor Warwick (who presided), representatives of the Board of Public Education, of the Sectional Board, and of the Civic Club, met at the Alice Lippincott School at Nineteenth and Addison streets, to dedicate the building and its contents as a memorial to Mrs. Dundas Lippincott. The renovation of the building and its refurnishing were provided for by a special appropriation.

Certain friends of Mrs. Lippincott, in conjunction with the Civic Club, have adorned the school with photographs and casts. Addresses were made by the mayor, Mrs. Sarah Yorke Stevenson, Dr. Horace Howard Furness, Miss Hallowell, and Dr. Brooks, Superintendent of Public Instruction. Mrs. Stevenson and Dr. Furness particularly spoke with much feeling of Mrs. Lippincott's character and devoted life.

Tree-planting on Arbor Day, in connection with the Tree-planting Committees of some of the schools, has occupied attention; and a great deal of educational work has been done by all the departments by papers and lectures from experts in different fields.

One of the chairmen, Mary Channing Wister, said in a report: "The great aim of our two years of civic life is not in any one of our enterprises begun or accomplished. Our gain is in the expansion of our own point of view."

That is solid wisdom, whether natural or acquired by association.

At a meeting of the Civic Club, held January 31, 1896, the president, Mrs. Sarah Yorke Stevenson, appointed Mrs. W. F. Jenks, Mrs. William H. Ingham, and Miss Hannah Fox a committee to consider the question of organizing an association for the purpose of purchasing, managing, and improving real estate in the poorer districts of Philadelphia; and at the request of these ladies Mr. B. Crenshaw and Mr. H. Taylor met and conferred with them as to the best means of accomplishing their purpose. A brief summary of the results of these various meetings is as follows:

First.—The association became the "Octavia Hill" Association of Philadelphia.

Second.—It was organized as a joint stock association, under the laws relative to limited partnerships.

Third.—The stock to be subscribed at first was ten thousand dollars, divided into four hundred shares of twenty-five dollars each.

Fourth.—Subscriptions were asked at once for this amount, and a meeting held for the purpose of organization.

The first annual report, printed January 1, 1897, states that "The Octavia Hill Association was organized as a result of meetings called last winter and spring by the Civic Club of Philadelphia. It became a corporation, under the laws of Pennsylvania, June 25, 1896, and has fifty-nine stockholders, representing two hundred and sixty-eight shares of stock at twenty-five dollars per share. Its aim, as stated in its by-laws, is to 'improve the living conditions in the poorer residence districts of the city.'

"The object of the Civic Club is 'to promote by education and active coöperation a higher public spirit and a better social order.' The Octavia Hill Association, although an independent organization, works for the same spirit and better order, on its own definite and restricted, but most important lines.

"In July last, title was taken to five properties near Seventh and South streets. The properties have been profitably operated, and the treasurer's report shows earnings which would now have justified a dividend. It is, however, more important that dividends should be continuous than that they should begin at the end of the first six months of corporate life. After thoughtful consideration the directors have decided to postpone distribution of earnings. The amount passed to surplus account is greater than is necessary for a dividend, but some surplus is required to guard against mischance in the future. The investment of stock has already realized fully as much as was predicted. It has, at the same time, resulted in providing suitable lodging for about ten families living previously in the same neighborhood, but in less wholesome quarters.

"In considering the improvement of property two distinct methods present themselves. One plan is to pull down old buildings and erect large tenements, the increased rental value of the new structures making due return for loss incurred in the purchase of buildings to be destroyed. The second, that now chosen by the Octavia Hill Association, is to refit old properties and small houses; first of all, putting in modern plumbing, and, so far as possible, removing all unhealthful surroundings. The experience of the company already shows that these old houses, when renovated, make very comfortable homes; and the object lesson given by the improved dwellings is most apparent when, in size and interior arrangement, they resemble those under more careless management. At present, therefore, in accord with the prevailing

spirit of Philadelphia, the association has decided not to build the large tenement, but to improve the separate home."

Even this brief suggestion of the work accomplished by the Civic Club of Philadelphia furnishes a record of which it may well be proud. The following is the list of officers: Mrs. Sarah Yorke Stevenson, president; Mrs. Joseph P. Mumford, first vice-president; Mrs. Matthew Baird, second vice-president; Mrs. Alfred C. Harrison, third vice-president; Miss Cornelia Frothingham, corresponding secretary; Miss Edith Wetherill, recording secretary; Miss Frances Clark, treasurer.

DIRECTORS.—Department of Municipal Government: Miss Mary Channing Wister, chairman; Mrs. Talcott Williams, vice-chairman. Department of Education: Miss Hallowell, chairman; Mrs. Geo. W. Kendrick, Jr., vice-chairman. Department of Social Science: Mrs. Edward Longstreth, chairman; Mrs. Wm. F. Jenks, vice-chairman. Department of Art: Mrs. C. Stuart Patterson, chairman; Mrs. J. P. Lundy, vice-chairman.

An important part of the work of the Civic Club, through the Committee on the Extension of Good Citizenship and the combined efforts of the Municipal and Educational Departments, was the formation of the Children's League of Good Citizenship.

In March, 1896, a report was presented at one of the meetings, which was unanimously adopted. In this report Mrs. Kirkbride quoted from a suggestive letter, received from Colonel Waring, of the New York Street Cleaning Department, giving the benefit of his experience in forming such leagues in that city; and further stated that, as the Seventh Ward had a numerous Civic Club membership, and had hitherto been the field of the club's most active work, the committee wished to be authorized to start its proposed league among the children of that section.

As a preliminary step, the principals and teachers of the schools of this ward were informally invited to meet the committee in charge and the officers of the club at the home of the chairman of the committee. The president and secretary of the local school board were present and gave their sanction and fullest sympathy to the project. Afterward a similar informal meeting of a semi-social character was held at the house of the president of the club for the discussion of a constitution and by-laws.

The first branch of the league was organized on May 2d, in the Ulysses S. Grant Grammar and Secondary School. The children, three hundred boys and two hundred and fifty girls, all enlisted, and were divided into thirteen companies. They chose and elected their officers, received from the Civic Club badges bearing the arms of the city, and were formally enrolled. Cards were given each child, on which the constitution and by-laws of the league were printed, and they were asked to hang these up in their homes. The results

have been surprising and gratifying. It is self-evident that the proper training place for citizens should be the public schools ; and if the opportunities for progress there can only be improved, an important field may be opened for the cultivation of civic ideals and truer standards.

We append the following useful list of reference books adopted by the Chicago Woman's Club in its studies of "Social Problems," as a guide to the preparatory work of a civic club.

"Recent Economic Changes," David A. Wells ; "Social Evolution," Kidd ; "Lectures on Industrial Revolution of Eighteenth Century in England," Arnold M. Toynbee ; "Das Kapital," Karl Marx ; "The Conflicts of Labor and Capital," George Howell ; "The Coöperative Movement of To-day," C. J. Holyoake ; "Progress and Poverty," H. George ; "Municipal Government in Continental Europe," Albert Shaw ; "Ethics of Social Progress," Giddings ; "Physische Entartung der Culturvölker," Schallmayer ; "Darwinism and Politics," D. G. Ritchie ; "Work and Wages," Brassey ; "The History of Trades Unions," Webb ; "Le Socialisme Contemporaine," Lavcleye ; "La Tryannie du Socialisme," Ires. Guyot ; "American Farms—their Condition and Future," J. R. Elliot ; "Un-American Immigration," Rena M. Atchison ; "The Alien Invasion," W. H. Wilkins ; "Les Selections Sociales," G. de Laponge ; "Principles of State Interference," D. G. Ritchie ; "A Plea for Liberty," edited by Thomas Mackay ; "Wealth and Moral Law," Andrew E. Benjamin.

Working Girls' Clubs

THE adaptation of the club idea to the needs of working girls originated with a department of the New York State Aid Charity Association, of which Miss Louisa Lee Schuyler was the founder.

Miss Grace H. Dodge was made chairman of the committee to carry this purpose into effect, and the entire system of working girls' associations now existing in different cities of the United States has been the result.

The first club started was by a group of six young working women called together by Miss Dodge, and who, after thoughtful consideration among themselves of the advantage to be gained by coöperative effort, organized in 1883 the parent society, known as the Thirty-eighth Street Club of Working Girls.

The plan of the club was that of all women's clubs: every member to have equal rights. All important matters to be decided by vote of the whole body. Business to be conducted in a parliamentary way, and the government to be vested in officers to be elected from the membership.

The stated objects: First, to furnish pleasant rooms where members can pass the evening. Second, to organize such classes for mutual enjoyment and improvement as the members may desire. Third, to select a circulating library for the use of members, which shall be for the benefit of all the members.

These objects are in part carried out by practical talks, classes, lectures, entertainments, and in part by a beautiful relationship of sisterly union, which is of help to each and every one.

The success of the first society stimulated the formation of many others, and soon brought about the plan of larger coöperation which naturally follows the expansion of the club idea.

Early in 1890 the question was proposed by a group of the club members: "Why can we not do more to show to the public what are the aims and characteristics of working girls?"

Resolutions were adopted asking the clubs to help discuss the question, and the remarkable replies coming from hundreds of young busy women were summarized in a call to the first convention of working girls' clubs.

This convention was a revelation to a public that had only known working girls through the whining and crying of sentimental sympathizers who had nothing in common with working girls themselves. The keynote which the convention struck was Education and Coöperation. The papers and discussions by the girls were marked by thoughtful intelligence, as interesting as to many unexpected. Among the members were those who presided with dignity, and conducted the proceedings with regularity and decorum.

The convention accomplished a great work. It was not only a revelation of their own administrative ability to the general membership, but it established the working girl in a new light in the eyes of the public. It showed her capable, independent, and self-reliant, able to supply her own needs when the opportunity existed.

The membership in the working girls' associations is now counted by the thousands. They have furnished rooms, created libraries, and in several instances sustain, with a little help, vacation homes.

In the formation of the General Federation in New York city, a sincere effort was made to affiliate the working girls' clubs in their associative capacity with the general body. The refusal came from the executive of the clubs; perhaps it was thought that patronage was intended. In any case, the equal basis, the equal right of representation, and the desire for obliteration of the lines of separation which had existed between the different kinds of work in the world was not understood. It required more time. One great outcome of the whole movement has been the spirit of fervent loyalty toward their clubs and to the members of each separate organization, which has been developed and become a cardinal principle among the girls themselves. This alone is worth many times the labor and energy expended, in the value added to individual and national character.

That it was only time that was needed is shown by the fact that working girls' clubs and associations are now allying themselves with State and local federations all over the country, and through these with the General Federation of Women's Clubs, thus becoming a part, as they are, of the great movement.



MRS. CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN,
FIRST PRESIDENT OF THE FEDERATION



"Strive for the whole, and if thou canst not become a whole thyself, connect thyself with a whole, as a ministering member."—
SCHILLER.

LOOKING back only eight years, when the thought occurred to the present writer of bringing clubs together, to celebrate the twenty-first anniversary of the birthday of Sorosis, and looking afar, north, east, south, and west, upon the great companies and aggregated groups of women in twenty-eight federated States, and others not yet federated, but inspired by club activities which constitute the great body of the General Federation, all grown from that small seed in this incredibly short space of time, one stands awed as before a miracle, intangible, but as real as any that have appeared in this "age of miracles."

Up to March, 1889, women's clubs were a local institution. It had taken many years and the growth of a new public opinion to disabuse the public mind of the impression that the "woman's club" was not the old type of man's club, with notes of rankling agitation and discontent added.

The second stage in the life and growth of the woman's club, and its evolution into the breadth and grandeur of a national movement, began with a "call" for a "convention of clubs," issued by Sorosis, to celebrate its twenty-first birthday.

At the business meeting (third Monday), January, 1889, Mrs. Croly proposed that Sorosis celebrate its coming anniversary by a convention of clubs, for which she presented the following "call," which was adopted unani-
ously and with enthusiasm:

CALL

In March of the present year (1889) Sorosis, the pioneer woman's club, attains its majority. It is proposed to celebrate its twenty-first anniversary by a convention of clubs, to meet on the 18th, 19th, and 20th days of March next; and in pursuance of this object a delegate from your club is cordially invited to be its representative, and assist, by a report of your methods and their results, in furthering the larger aims of the convention.

GENERAL FEDERATION

The topics discussed will be :

1. The enunciation of the woman's club idea and its point of departure from the society.
2. The data upon which to gauge the extent to which in twenty-one years club-life has grown among women.
3. In what it consists, and how it differs from the club-life of men.
4. The methods employed and their operation.
5. Results obtained and outlook for the future.
6. The influence exerted upon the communities in which they exist.

The associated life of women is now an established fact. Twenty-one years of steady growth have demonstrated it. This life has produced as its first flower a bond of good fellowship to which every good clubwoman responds.

OFFICERS OF SOROSIS

The then officers of Sorosis, who served until and during the anniversary exercises of March 18th, were :

President, M. Louise Thomas ; vice-presidents, J. C. Croly, Romelia L. Clapp, Katherine G. Foote ; Executive Committee, Fannie I. Helmuth, Mary A. Newton, H. M. Miller, Hannah Allen, Emma V. Townsend ; recording secretary, Sarah C. Ostrom ; corresponding secretary, Ella D. Clymer ; treasurer, Lucy C. Thomas ; auditor, Hester M. Poole ; musical director, Clara Stutsman ; chairman of custodia, Maude K. Clarke ; chairmen of committees : on literature, Elizabeth W. Champney ; on art, Isabella B. Chalmers ; on drama, Georgia Cayvan ; on philanthropy, Margaret K. B. Gouge ;

on science, Jennie M. Lozier, M.D. ; on education, Emma W. Higley ; on house and home, Ada M. Brown ; on business women, Julia M. Thomas.

Officers who had been elected March 4th, and were installed March 18, 1889, were :

President, Ella Dietz Clymer ; vice-presidents, J. C. Croly, Sarah C. Ostrom, Rebecca A. Morse ; Executive Committee, Mary A. Newton, Josephine Kühne, C. M. Valentine, Anne W. Fuller, Harriet M. Miller ; recording secretary, Hannah Allen ; corresponding secretary, Jennie M. Lozier, M.D. ; treasurer, Lucy C. Thomas ; auditor, Edna C. Smith ; musical director, Esther Herrman ; chairman of custodia, Maude K. Clarke ; chair-

*CREDENTIAL*CARD* •Present • this • at • the • Door •
NAME
RESIDENCE
OFFICIAL POSITION
CLUB

men of committees; on literature, Mary E. Bryan; on art, Isabel E. Smith; on drama, Margaret W. Ravenhill; on philanthropy, M. K. B. Gouge; on science, Lucy L. Holbrook; on education, Anna Randall Diehl; on house and home, Mary Virginia Terhune; on business women, Ella A. Hitchcock.

CONVENTION COMMITTEES

Correspondence, Mrs. J. C. Croly, chairman; organization, Mrs. Lucy C. Thomas, chairman; entertainment, Miss Hannah Allen, chairman; credentials, Mrs. Alma C. Johnson, chairman; decoration, Mrs. Maude K. Clarke, chairman; souvenir, Mrs. Romelia L. Clapp, chairman; finance, Mrs. C. J. Haley, chairman.

ORDER OF EXERCISES

March 18th, reception of delegates and guests at Delmonico's, 1.30 P.M.

INSTALLATION OF OFFICERS

Nine o'clock, P.M., night view of printing the daily *World*, New York *World* Building.

Tuesday, March 19th, ten o'clock, A.M.

CONFERENCES

Reports of visiting delegates.

Luncheon, half-past one, to Sorosis and delegates, by Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, "The Madrid," 180 West Fifty-ninth Street.

Three P.M., visit to Metropolitan Museum of Art. Private view of the Cypriote Collection. By the courtesy of General de Cesnola.

Eight P.M., Madison Square Theatre. One hundred orchestra seats for the evening performance. By invitation of A. M. Palmer, Esq.

Wednesday, March 20th, ten A.M., Madison Square Theatre.

MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE TO FOUND A PERMANENT FEDERATION OF CLUBS

Luncheon, one o'clock, P.M., Fifth Avenue Hotel.

Exhibition of Japanese curios, three P.M., by invitation of Prof. Charles E. West, M.D., LL.D.

Eight to twelve P.M., Sorosis reception to delegates and guests at Delmonico's.

These formal exercises were preceded by a Saturday evening reception given by the retiring president, Mr. M. Louise Thomas, and a Sunday evening reception given by Mrs. Croly.

RESPONSES FROM CLUBS

The call had been addressed to ninety-seven clubs, all that could be heard of. Sixty-one responded by sending delegates, others by letter. The letters were from the Woman's Club of Olympia, from Nantucket Sorosis, Saturday Club of Leavenworth Kan.; The Manse, Richmond, Va.; Decorah Woman's Club, Iowa, and Round Table, Nebraska. North, south, east, and west were represented in these six letters. The clubs represented by delegates were: New England Woman's Club, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; Cozy Club, Bridgeport, Conn., Mrs. D. W. Thompson; Charity Club, Boston, Mass., Miss Belle Grant Armstrong; Hypatia Club, Mrs. Mary C. Todd, Wichita, Kan.; Fortnightly Club, Denver, Col., Mrs. E. K. Hallock; Ossoli Literary Circle, Knoxville, Tenn., Mrs. L. C. French; Woman's Club, Fargo, N. Dakota, Mrs. Dykeman; Woman's Reading Club, Greencastle, Ind., Elizabeth Ames; Tourists' Club, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Miss Albright; Woman's Club, Orange, N. J., Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown; New Century Club of Wilmington, Del., Mrs. Harriet Belt Stevens; Woman's Club, Woburn, Mass., Sarah E. Doyle; Woman's Club, Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Julia Holmes Smith; Fortnightly Club, Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Ellen Mitchell; New Century Club, St. Paul, Minn., Mrs. Driscoll; Marshalltown Woman's Club, Marshalltown, Ia., M. E. W. Getz; Worcester Woman's Club, Worcester, Mass., Mrs. Edith L. Getchell; Ladies' Literary Association, Dubuque, Ia., Mrs. Mena Enz; Industrial Art Club, New York, Mrs. L. B. Gachus; Fortnightly, Winchester, Mass., Mrs. Mary A. Gregory; Intercollegiate Sorosis, Ann Arbor, Mich., Miss Nettie Haire; Ladies' Afternoon Club of Janesville, Wis., Mrs. J. P. Haire; Clio Club, New York, Mrs. Andrew B. Humphrey; New Century Club, Philadelphia, Pa., Mrs. Mary R. Hall; Lansing Woman's Club, Lansing, Mich., Matilda M. Howard; Melrose Woman's Club, Melrose, Mass., Rebecca L. Hesseltine; Detroit Woman's Club, Mrs. H. H. Jackson; Katharine Merrill Club of Indianapolis, Ind., Lila M. Ketcham; Women's Educational and Industrial Union of Boston, Mrs. Caroline A. Kennard; Monday Afternoon Club, Plainfield, N. J., Elvira E. Kenyon; Women's Literary Society of Dunkirk, N. Y.; Atlantic Club of Topeka, Kan., Mrs. Ray McClintock; Alumnæ Association of the Normal School of Philadelphia, Margaret B. Harvey; Nineteenth Century Club, Iowa City, Ia., Ellen G. McClain; Eothen Club, East Oakland, Cal.; Springfield Woman's Club, Springfield, Mass., Mrs. Mary L. Owen; Woman's Club of New Orleans, Katharine Nobles; Ladies' Literary Club, Grand Rapids, Mich., Mrs. Enos Putnam; New England Wheaton Seminary Club, Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill; "Old and New," Malden, Mass., Harriet H. Robin-

son ; Jacksonville Sorosis, Jacksonville, Ill., Miss Mary L. Rhodes ; Woman's Club of Wisconsin, Ellen M. H. Peck ; Woman's Club, Chicago, Ill., Dr. Julia Holmes Smith ; Carlisle Fortnightly Club, Carlisle, Pa. ; Monday Club, La Fayette, Ind., Mary W. Smart ; Woman's National Council, May Wright Sewall ; Woman's Club of Jamaica, L. I., Mabel M. Smith ; El Mora Ladies' Club, Elizabeth, N. J., Mrs. M. B. Prettyman ; Fortnightly, Chicago, Ill., Mrs. R. Emerson ; Woman's Club of San Francisco, Cal., Mrs. S. Solomon ; Woman's Club of Pittsburg, Pa., M. B. Schluederberg ; Indianapolis Woman's Club, Kate Rand Winters ; Women's Educational Club, West Newton, Mass., Mrs. Electa N. L. Walton ; Literary Club, Church of the Messiah, Buffalo, Harriet A. Townsend ; Woman's Club, Terre Haute, Ind., Mrs. A. W. Waldo ; Home Club, East Boston, Mass., Mrs. A. H. Spaulding ; Ladies' Literary Club, Cedar Rapids, Ia., Mrs. W. W. Walker ; Brooklyn Woman's Club, Brooklyn, N. Y., Amelia K. Wing ; Social Science Club, Newton, Mass., Lucy Newhall Sawyer ; Sorosis, New York, Miss H. Allen.

The gathering of these women, their collective personality—so gentle, yet so actively intelligent—was a revelation of a new force in progressive womanhood, that of the home-keeping and home-making woman. The clubwoman was found to be generally wife and mother ; alive to means of culture, interested in all means of progress, and eager to seize and multiply opportunities for individual and collective advancement.

The reports were all the same in beginnings. Starting almost invariably with the desire of a smaller or larger group of women for intellectual culture and the moral and physical improvement of their environment, the pursuits of these objects had gradually displaced the old meaningless social routine and substituted a broad, stimulating educational and helpful life in which latent faculties were exercised and opportunities of every sort multiplied.

There was nothing aggressive in this work, no effort at propaganda ; only the opening of doors and windows of souls, and consequent light and sunshine flowing in upon other minds and souls. It was the most wonderful of experimental gatherings. But it has been repeated many times since, though never perhaps with the same thrilling effect. "What charming women !" said the men who were admitted to some of the sessions. "They move about the platform as if it were a drawing-room." This also has been repeated since that time wherever has been a gathering of clubwomen.

Noteworthy incidents of the anniversary were the presentation to Sorosis of one thousand dollars by one of its own members, Mrs. Esther Herrman, for many years chairman of its philanthropic committee. From two absent members came magnificent specimens of the pineapple, the botanical emblem of Sorosis. Mrs. May Riley Smith sent a poem and letter. She said : "I have hung the American flag out of my window, put on my prettiest gown,

pinned my Sorosis badge over my heart, and with a smile and a tear am keeping the anniversary with you to-day."

Mrs. Ellen Mitchell, of the Fortnightly of Chicago, presented, in the name of that club, a bouquet of roses, and said: "Twenty-one flowers for twenty-one years of age; twenty-one American Beauties for twenty-one happy years. All that I would say has been said in the speech that I might have made very much better than I could say it, and I will not detain you, but let my flowers speak for me, and offer to Sorosis from the club I represent its best wishes, its warmest congratulations, its thankfulness for its past, and its best wishes for its future."

A letter from Mrs. Benjamin F. Harrison, dated from the Executive Mansion, was warmly received; and there were many other delightful incidents and happy happenings, which space forbids to the historian, and which, with addresses and speeches, must be left to the imagination.

Perhaps Miss Mary Eastman, of the New England Woman's Club, best expressed the prevailing sentiment when she said: "While the organization and the clasp of hands have been like a beautiful dream to me, I have rejoiced in the *manyness* of us more than in almost anything else. To-day I felt the joy of the vast intellectual wealth in us, and it has been like a shock of electricity. I am glad that so many could come; I am glad we clasp hands so widely,

and now begin to understand each other. It seems to me that as I feel the great love that comes from so many, it is almost too great a joy, and somehow we want to learn to bear it. We must learn sympathy, learn unity, learn the great lesson of organization. I am sure we never have begun to dream of what will yet appear. This club and the other clubs reach out into the new life for women. It is certainly a new life. These clubs have made a new world, and we have got to adapt ourselves to it and to educate the world around us."



MRS. ELLA DIETZ CLYMER

It must be recorded that Mrs. Clymer in her opening address, March 19th, made use of the phrase that afterwards became the motto of the General Federation. Her closing words were:

"We look for unity, but unity in diversity. We hope that you will enrich us by your varied experiences, and let us pledge ourselves to work for a common cause—the cause of womanhood throughout the world."

FOUNDING THE GENERAL FEDERATION

"Unity in Diversity"



"It was a beautiful convention," said every one, and in pursuance of the "larger aims" proposed by the "call," a general meeting of the delegates was convened on Wednesday afternoon, 20th of March, at Madison Square Theatre, to lay the foundation for a permanent Federation of Women's Clubs.

The gathering was very large, and a committee was appointed by unanimous vote to draft a constitution and present a plan of organization, to be ratified the following year. The president of Sorosis, Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, was made chairman of this committee, and the following women elected to compose it: Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. J. C. Croly, Mrs. M. L. Thomas, Mrs. S. C. Hoffman, New York; Mrs. May Wright Sewall, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, of Orange, N. J.; Mrs. Driscoll, of St. Paul, Minn.; Miss Sarah E. Doyle, of Rhode Island; Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, of Chicago; Mrs. C. H. Hall, of Philadelphia; Miss Nobles, of New Orleans; Mrs. Putnam, of Grand Rapids, Mich.; and Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The New England Woman's Club subsequently voted not to ally itself with a federated movement at this early date; action which took Mrs. Julia Ward Howe out of the committee to its great regret. From the committee an Advisory Board was formed for executive purposes, consisting of the following members:

Ella Dietz Clymer, M. Louise Thomas, Sophia C. Hoffman, Mary R. Hall, Amelia K. Wing, Charlotte Emerson Brown and J. C. Croly, who subsequently became secretary to the board.

The work done during the year 1889 by the General Federation committee is best told by reports given at the ratification convention held in New York on April 23d, 24th, and 25th, 1890.

It is necessary to state here that on the 1st of September, 1889, Mrs. Croly as editor, and Mrs. C. J. Haley as publisher, issued the first number of *The Woman's Cycle*, which became the medium of the record for the foundation work of the General Federation.

GENERAL FEDERATION

THE RATIFICATION CONVENTION

The first convention of the General Federation gathered at Scottish Rite Hall, pursuant to the following invitation :

To the President of —

NEW YORK, MARCH 27, 1890.

DEAR MADAM—The first meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs will be held in the city of New York, at Scottish Rite Hall, Madison Avenue, corner of Twenty-ninth street, April 23d, 24th, and 25th.

Your club having applied for membership in the Federation, and having been accepted by the Advisory Board, is entitled, according to the provisional constitution, to send two representatives. You, as president of your club, will become vice-president of the Federation, unless your club decide to elect another vice-president.

A delegate may also be sent to report on the club work. Both representatives should be sent with full power to act for their club.

If your club can conveniently send but one representative, that one, either president or delegate, is requested to bring a short written report of club work. In case no representative can be sent, please send written report, to be read by some officer of the Federation.

Clubs which reported at the convention last March are requested to confine their forthcoming reports to the work of the past year.

Clubs which report for the first time at this convention will please give an account of organization and general plan of work.

Five minutes will be allowed for each report.

The Committee on Credentials will receive the delegates at Scottish Rite Hall on Wednesday, April 23d, at 9.30 A.M.

At 10.30 the meeting will be called to order for the formal adoption of a constitution.

Adjournment, 12.30.

At 2 P.M., reports of delegates.

Eight P.M., short addresses.

Thursday, 10.30 A.M., election of officers.

Adjournment, 12.30.

Two P.M., reports of delegates.

Evening reception to delegates, given by Sorosis at Delmonico's.

Friday, 10.30 A.M., unfinished business and reports of delegates.

Adjournment, 12.30.

Two P.M., symposium on women's clubs; short papers on practical questions pertaining to club work, each paper to be followed by a discussion.

Adjournment.

This outline of programme is subject to amendment.

Very truly yours,

Ella Dietz Clymer, Chairman.

M. Louise Thomas.

Sophia C. Hoffman, Treasurer.

Mary R. Hall.

Amelia K. Wing.

Charlotte Emerson Brown.

J. C. Croly, Secretary.

Advisory Board.

Sorosis was the hostess of the occasion, and the president of Sorosis, Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, presided and welcomed the delegates in this capacity, as well as in that of chairman of the Federation Committee. Her first words were:

"Welcome to you all, welcome and thanks. In the name of Sorosis I thank you for coming from your homes, far and near, to help us lay the foundations of this new organization, which promises in time to become one of the most beneficent institutions of this, our glorious land, and of the world.

"We who know what club life has been to us individually can easily predicate what the Federation may become to clubs at large in the future. It will stand related to clubs throughout this land, and, eventually throughout the world, as a great mother to her children—inspiring and controlling by the forces of wisdom and of love."

The clubs represented by delegates were: From Massachusetts 17, New York 10, Indiana 9, Pennsylvania 4, California 3, Michigan 3, Connecticut 3, Ohio 2, Illinois 2, New Jersey 2, Kansas 2, Delaware 1, Louisiana 1, Missouri 1, Tennessee 1, Rhode Island 1, North Dakota 1; sixty-three in all, representing seventeen States.

The secretary's report gave the detail of the formation of an Advisory Board on the 21st of March, 1889, and the letter from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, advising the board of the action of the New England Woman's Club, which "did not consider an association of clubs desirable at present."

To a board meeting held on the 27th of June, at the residence of the chairman, Mrs. Putnam, Miss Nobles, Mrs. Mary Todd, and Miss Doyle sent suggestions regarding the constitution for the Federation, and Mrs. Clymer, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Croly offered drafts, which were discussed section by section at this and other meetings, when the full board was present; and from these a constitution was formed and sent for approval to every member of the Federation Committee.

In October, at the suggestion of Mrs. May Wright Sewall, five names were suggested for provisional work, and a State Correspondence Committee formed, with territory assigned as follows:

Mrs. Sophia C. Hoffman, Mrs. Mary L. Owen, New Hampshire and Vermont; Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill, Massachusetts; Miss Sarah E. Doyle, Rhode Island; Mrs. M. Louise Thomas, Connecticut; Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, New York; Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, New



MRS. MAY WRIGHT SEWALL

Jersey, Maryland, Delaware, and Virginia; Mrs. Mary R. Hall, Pennsylvania and West Virginia; Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee; Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, Illinois, Iowa, and Nebraska; Mrs. E. Putnam, Michigan and Wisconsin; Mrs. M. Driscoll, Minnesota, Montana, and Dakota; Miss Catharine H. Hittell, California; Miss Catharine Nobles, North Carolina, South Carolina, Georgia, Florida, Alabama, Mississippi, Louisiana, and Texas; Mrs. Mary C. Todd, Indian Territory, Kansas, Arkansas, and Missouri; Mrs. Stanton Blatch, England; Madame De Morsier, France; Dr. Emma Brainerd Ryder, India.

The following letters show some of the work done by the provisional chairman of State correspondence:

To the Secretary of Federation Committee:

DEAR MADAM: A copy of the draft of the constitution of the Federation of Clubs and of the printed letter sent out by the Advisory Board, accompanied by a personal letter from my own hand, urging the clubs addressed to consider the proposed Federation favorably, was sent by me at once on reception to each of the thirty-six clubs in my territory (Indiana, Ohio, Kentucky, and Tennessee), all whose existence and address I had ascertained. I invited the clubs addressed to further correspondence, and also requested each one to send me the addresses of other clubs in the vicinity of their own. Thirteen of the clubs thus addressed sent letters of inquiry, to which I responded as fully as possible, recommending them to consult *The Cycle* for club information in general. On April 7th I received a request from Mrs. Clymer to add Minnesota and Dakota to my territory. It was then too late to do more than send information to the clubs in those States whose addresses I could obtain from the directory published in *The Cycle*. As soon as I learned that the meeting of the Federation had been postponed from March to April I notified my clubs of the change, and sent out the printed letters announcing the meeting on April 23d, 24th, and 25th. The list of the clubs thus corresponded with I submit with this report. As a result of my correspondence with forty clubs in all (to the original thirty-six were added four in Dakota and Minnesota), the following fourteen have entered the Federation: The Woman's Club, Shelbyville, Ind.; the Helen Hunt Club, Cambridge City, Ind.; the Amaranth, New Albany, Ind.; the Woman's Club, Muncie, Ind.; the Tourist Club, Frankfort, Ind.; the Woman's Literary Club, Dayton, Ohio; Katherine Merrill Club, Indianapolis, Ind.; the Woman's Club, Indianapolis, Ind.; the Ossoli, Knoxville, Tenn.; the Cycle, Richmond, Ind.; the Woman's Press Club, Cincinnati, Ohio; the Fortnightly, Indianapolis, Ind.; the Woman's Club, Fargo, Dak.; the Woman's Reading Club, Terre Haute, Ind. Seven have decided not to enter the Federation, and the remaining

nineteen have not yet reached a decision. Of the fourteen clubs in my territory which have entered the Federation, nine have signified their intention of sending delegates this year. I have reason to believe that another result of my correspondence relative to the Federation has been the organization of at least five new clubs in my territory.

MAY WRIGHT SEWALI.

Corresponding Secretary of Advisory Board :

DEAR MADAM; In response to the request to forward a report of my correspondence with the different women's clubs of California, I will say that I have corresponded with the Woman's Club of San Francisco, the Ebell Society of Oakland, the Ruskin Club of Los Angeles, and Mrs. Severance, a member of the former Woman's Club of Los Angeles.

The Ebell Society of Oakland wished to join the General Federation, and I directed its secretary to correspond at once with you, in order to save time, as it was only lately that I found out that this club was qualified. In the same way I only quite recently, and through a mere chance, discovered the existence of the Ruskin Club of Los Angeles. I wrote to the secretary and sent her an account of the Federation and of the conditions of membership, and after receiving her answer that the club was both qualified and desired to join I directed her to correspond immediately with you. I also wrote to Mrs. Caroline Severance concerning the Woman's Club of Los Angeles, but she answered that this latter club had dropped out of existence. In Santa Barbara there is also a very charming club, but this is its first year of existence, so it did not answer the conditions.

CATHARINE H. HITTELL.

Chairman of Advisory Board :

DEAR MADAM; In response to letters sent to clubs in my district, the following have applied for membership or expressed a wish to do so soon : The Round Robin Club, of Little Rock, Ark. ; Ladies' Literary Club, Liberal, Mo. ; the '81 Club, Kansas City, Mo. ; Ladies' Literary Club, Chetopa, Kan. ; the Saturday Club, Leavenworth, Kan. ; Sorosis Club, Sedalia, Mo. ; Monday Club, Denver, Col. ; Paola Pleasant Hour Club, Paola, Kan. All clubs express themselves as highly pleased with the idea of the organization, and hope for good results. Regretting that I cannot be with you in person, I am,

MARY C. TODD,

Member of Provisional Committee, Wichita, Kan.

GENERAL FEDERATION

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF ADVISORY BOARD OF THE GENERAL FED-
ERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

NEW YORK, APRIL 23, 1890.

Dues from 4 clubs, \$5.00 each.....	\$20 00
Biennial dues, 41 clubs, \$10.00 each.....	\$410 00
Total.....	<u>\$430 00</u>

DISBURSEMENTS:

APRIL 23, 1890.

To Mrs. Clymer, chairman of Advisory Board:	
For payment of bills.....	\$65 00
To treasurer for printing and postage.....	6 00— \$71 00
On hand.....	<u>\$359 00</u>

SOPHIA C. HOFFMAN,
Treasurer of Advisory Board.

The report of the chairman of the Advisory Board and Federation Committee, Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, showed that thirteen meetings had been held during the year, and a constitution formed which upwards of fifty clubs had adopted.

Mrs. Clymer's report stated:

"During the past year the Advisory Board have held thirteen meetings at the residence of the chairman. The result of these meetings is that a provisional constitution has been formed on basis of resolutions drawn up by the committee, and over sixty clubs have applied for membership in the Federation and have been accepted. The first meeting of the Advisory Board was held on May 17, 1889. At that meeting copies of the resolutions were voted to be printed, as passed by convention of 1889, and sent to members with the request that they would return brief draft of constitution drawn on basis of resolutions.

"June 25th.—Second meeting of the Advisory Board. At this meeting Mrs. C. E. Brown, Mrs. Croly, and the chairman offered drafts of constitution. These were acted upon, and a constitution adopted from them by the members present.

"October 1st.—Third meeting of the Advisory Board. On motion to reconsider, the constitution was discussed and revised.

"October 8th.—The Advisory Board held a fourth meeting. The proof of the constitution was submitted to the board. Letters read from Mrs. Hoffman, Mrs. Todd of Wichita, Kan., and Miss Kate Nobles of New Orleans.

A motion to reconsider was again made, and the constitution finally discussed and acted upon clause by clause.

"The circular letter which was to accompany the constitution was then submitted by the chairman, and adopted with some additions suggested by Mrs. Wing. October 19th.—The chairman having discovered still some imperfections in the constitution, it was again reconsidered and amended in various ways.

"October 22d.—Sixth meeting. The corrected proof of constitution was finally submitted to the board, and adopted as read.

"Mrs. May Wright Sewall was present at this meeting, and assisted in the assignment of territory to a States Correspondence Committee. On March 25th a meeting of the Advisory Board was held in conjunction with the Executive Committee of Sorosis. Sorosis having invited the Federation to meet in New York, had also decided to assume the expenses of the convention. The chairman was authorized at this meeting to secure Scottish Rite Hall for April 23d, 24th, and 25th. April 12th a meeting was held, and Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown and the chairman made Committee on Programme."

Mrs. Clymer's report concluded as follows:

"The board feels that it is to be congratulated on having made so good a beginning, and hopes that this nucleus may develop into a great organization of widespread beneficial influence."

The afternoon of Wednesday, 23d, was given to reports of delegates, which were most inspiring, exhibiting an astonishing variety and excellence in club work.

After the reports the meeting adjourned till 8 P.M.

In the evening a large audience gathered to hear an address on "Club Culture," by Mrs. J. S. Warner; "Advantages of a General Federation of Women's Clubs," by Mrs. Croly; "Working Girls' Societies," by Miss Grace H. Dodge; "State Federation," by Mrs. May Wright Sewall; "Ideal Anniversaries," by Mrs. Maria L. Owen, and the "Future of Women's Clubs," by Mrs. E. D. Clymer.

On Thursday morning, April 24th, the first order of business, Mrs. Clymer in the chair, was the appointment of a Committee on By-Laws and Amendments. The following accepted: Charlotte Emerson Brown, Woman's Club of Orange, N. J.; May Wright Sewall, president of Woman's Club, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mary E. Mumford, president of the New Century Club, Philadelphia, Pa.; Julia S. Warner, Woman's Club of Wisconsin; Harriet H. Robinson, president of Old and New, Malden, Mass.

The provisional constitution was then read, and was followed by discussion. The final result was the adoption of the amended version, as follows:

GENERAL FEDERATION**CONSTITUTION AS ADOPTED APRIL 24, 1890**

ARTICLE I. NAME.—This association shall be called The General Federation of Women's Clubs.

ARTICLE II. OBJECT.—The object of the General Federation is to bring into communication with each other the various women's clubs throughout the world, in order that they may compare methods of work and become mutually helpful.

ARTICLE III. OFFICERS AND DELEGATES.—Section 1.—The officers of the General Federation of Women's Clubs shall be a president, a first vice-president, vice-presidents whose number shall correspond to the number of clubs composing the Federation, a recording secretary, a corresponding secretary, a treasurer, and an auditor of accounts. These officers shall constitute a Council with power to elect an Advisory Board, which shall transact the business of the Federation and report to the Council, and to the Federation, at each biennial meeting. Section 2.—The president, first vice-president, recording and corresponding secretaries, treasurer and auditor of accounts shall be elected by ballot, after nomination, from the floor, at the biennial meetings. A majority vote of the officers and delegates present shall constitute an election. The president of each club in membership shall be vice-president of the Federation, or a club may elect a vice-president from among its members. Section 3.—No member shall hold more than one office at a time. No officer shall be eligible to election to the same office for more than one consecutive term. Each officer shall hold office until the adjournment of the next biennial meeting. In case of a vacancy, the Advisory Board shall appoint a member to serve until her successor be elected at the biennial meeting. No two officers shall be elected from the same State. Section 4.—Each club belonging to the Federation should be represented at the biennial meetings by a delegate who shall be entitled to vote and who shall present to the meeting a written report of club work. Section 5.—All members of clubs which have regularly entered the Federation may be present at any biennial convention and may take part in discussions on all measures brought forward, but shall not introduce motions or vote.

ARTICLE IV. CONDITIONS OF MEMBERSHIP. Section 1.—A club desiring to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs should apply to a member of the Council; and should send to her a copy of its constitution and by-laws, also a copy of its act of incorporation, if incorporated. Section 2.—The member of the Council to whom application has been made shall present the name and credentials of the club to the Advisory Board. By vote of the Advisory Board a club may be elected an associate member of the General

Federation of Women's Clubs. Section 3.—A club in order to be eligible to membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs, must possess the following qualifications: First, a constitution which shall show by its plan of work that no sectarian or political test is required, that its purpose is not primarily philanthropic or technical, but that its chief object is literary, artistic, or scientific culture, while the more broadly human movements may be recognized; second, a record of not less than one year of organized club life.

ARTICLE V. MEETINGS AND DUES. Section 1.—The meetings of the General Federation of Women's Clubs shall take place every two years in the month of May, beginning in 1892. The place of meeting shall be decided by the Advisory Board. Section 2.—The biennial dues of each club shall be \$10, payable at the biennial meeting.

ARTICLE VI. AMENDMENTS.—This constitution may be amended at any biennial meeting of the Federation by a two-thirds vote of the members present, provided the proposed amendment shall have been approved by the Advisory Board, and notice of the same appended to the call of the meeting.

After the adoption of the constitution came the report of the Committee on By-laws, which was accepted without any demurring.

BY-LAWS

I.—The president of the General Federation shall preside at all its meetings, and shall be *ex-officio* chairman of the Council and of the Advisory Board, and shall supervise plans for extending, unifying, and rendering efficient the work of the Federation.

The recording and corresponding secretaries and auditor shall perform the duties usually belonging to their respective offices. When so ordered by the Advisory Board, the minutes and papers of each biennial meeting shall be edited and published by a committee appointed by the Advisory Board, of which the recording secretary shall be the chairman.

All moneys belonging to the General Federation shall be in charge of the treasurer, who shall invest them, subject to the order of the Advisory Board, in some reliable savings bank, and the dues shall be collected by her. The treasurer's accounts shall be audited annually, and an annual report made to the Advisory Board. Also a full report shall be made to the Federation at each biennial meeting.

II.—The Council shall meet at the call of the Advisory Board. Eleven members shall constitute a quorum.

III.—The Advisory Board shall consist of nine members, and shall meet at the call of the president. Three members shall constitute a quorum.

IV.—To secure suitable arrangements for each biennial meeting, a local

GENERAL FEDERATION

committee from the place of meeting shall be appointed by the Advisory Board; the committee and the Advisory Board making up the programme and acting in concert for the general interests of the meeting and Federation.

V.—Members of the Advisory Board shall be *ex-officio* members of the biennial meetings and be entitled to vote. Committees appointed at one biennial meeting to report at another shall be regular members of the biennial meeting at which their reports are made.

VI.—The Council or Advisory Board may appoint committees, whose duty it shall be to secure correspondence among local clubs, and do whatever else may be helpful.

VII.—There shall be no salaried officers. Necessary expenses incurred by officers in the service of the Federation may be refunded from the general treasury by order of the Advisory Board.

VIII.—Clubs desirous of uniting with the Federation may be received by vote of the Advisory Board at any of its regular meetings.

IX.—Any State or Territorial Federation including ten clubs in its membership, may, upon application, be recognized as a branch of the General Federation.

Every such branch shall be entitled to two delegates in the biennial convention of the General Federation, but said delegates must be elected from clubs not directly connected with the General Federation.

X.—Rules of order shall be those of Cushing's Manual.

XI.—These by-laws may be amended at any biennial meeting by a majority vote, provided notice of such amendment shall have been by order of the Advisory Board appended to the call of the meeting. Or without such previous notice the by-laws may be amended at any biennial meeting by unanimous vote.

Respectfully submitted,

CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN,
MAY WRIGHT SEWALL,
MARY E. MUMFORD,
JULIA S. WARNER,
HARRIET H. ROBINSON.

The afternoon of Thursday was filled with interesting reports from clubs represented by delegates, and closed with the presentation of a loving cup to Sorosis on behalf of the delegation, by Mrs. Kate Tanett Woods, chairman. The beautiful gift was accepted for the club by the president, Mrs. Clymer, and the adjournment took place with happy anticipations of a brilliant "Delmonico" reception in the evening. These were not disappointed. By ten o'clock the formal presentations were over, and the assemblage had gradually

withdrawn from the crowded reception-rooms into the crimson-carpeted corridors, and were led along by music, and the beautiful incandescent lights shining like enlarged opals, into the great open spaces of the famous ball-room. Here all formality ceased. There were no speeches, no programme, only opportunity to get acquainted under the most favorable auspices, and every one availed herself of it to the fullest extent. Many gentlemen were present, and they were most delightful, as the husbands and male relatives of club women are apt to be. The meeting of the representatives of so many and such distant clubs—from the south, east, north, and west—was, indeed, an event to be remembered. What brought them? Not a creed, a dogma, or a hobby; only the spirit of unity in the bonds of newly-discovered love. And this spirit shone out of every woman's eyes.

On Friday the convention was called to order at 10.30 A.M., Mrs. Clymer in the chair.

The calling of the roll was followed by the report of the treasurer, Mrs. Hoffman, and the report of the auditor, Mrs. Robinson. The minutes were read by the secretary, and accepted, and telegrams of congratulation received and read from Mrs. Wallace, Mrs. Myra Bradwell, and Mrs. John A. Logan.

The president appointed as tellers, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Miss Davis, and Miss Mary A. Frost.

Nominations from the floor for president were, Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, New York, and Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, New Jersey.

Mrs. William Tod Helmuth begged to make a suggestion. She wished to propose the name of Mrs. Croly, the originator of Sorosis and of the Federation, as the most fitting one for president.

Mrs. Croly absolutely declined to be considered "in the field." She felt also that the first president of the Federation should be chosen outside of Sorosis, and indorsed the nomination of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown as one eminently fit and proper.

At the close of Mrs. Croly's remarks, Mrs. Clymer asked Mrs. Croly to take the chair, and said:

*"Mrs. Chairman and Ladies:—*I wish to indorse all that Mrs. Croly has said about Sorosis, and all that Mrs. Helmuth has said about Mrs. Croly. If the position of president of the Federation belongs by right of honor to any one it belongs to Mrs. Croly. Mrs. Croly first suggested calling together a convention of clubs, and foresaw that from that convention might arise a permanent Federation. She thought out the plan of work in detail, and it was owing to the fact that Sorosis followed that plan that the convention became a success. The ever-responsive heart of Sorosis answered to the call and followed where she led; but now the work is accomplished, Sorosis desires to

GENERAL FEDERATION

take her place among her sister clubs in the Federation. She has been duly considered and duly honored in having been the chief instrument used to form this great Federation, and she feels duly rewarded in seeing the work successfully accomplished.

"Mrs. Croly has told you that it would be impossible for her to accept the office of president of the Federation, owing to the fact that her hands are filled with other duties. She is doing a work for women, quite as important as any work she could do as president of the Federation, in editing the *Woman's Cycle*; she is giving us a club organ of which every club woman ought to be proud, and which no club woman can afford to do without; she cannot be spared from her literary labors to take the presidency of the Federation; and, therefore, I say I wish to indorse with all my heart the nomination of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, who, I feel, will sustain the best interests of the Federation. Mrs. Brown has courage, energy, and enthusiasm. The best features of the present programme were suggested by her, and she has been ready to give her aid in any way in her power. She has the largest hope for the Federation, and the firmest faith in it, and I feel sure that in her hands it will become that which we all earnestly hope it will be—a means of uniting women in bonds of love and sympathy."

All the nominations were made from the floor; the result was the election of president, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown; vice-president, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Indiana; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary B. Temple, of Knoxville, Tenn.; recording secretary, Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York; treasurer, Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, California; auditor, Mrs. Kate Tanett Woods, of Massachusetts.

The adjournment was to 2.30 P.M. The meeting was called to order by the newly elected president, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown; and the audience listened to an address by Mrs. M. Louise Thomas, ex-president of Sorosis, on the "Method and Value of Incorporation." Mrs. Amelia K. Wing read a paper upon "When and How Should a Club be Organized?" A paper by Mrs. Sophia B. Hoffman was on "The Best Method of Electing Officers and Members."

Mrs. Clymer was now invited by Mrs. Brown to take the chair; and Mrs. Brown gave a paper on "Rotation in Office," which was discussed by Mesdames Ostrom, Robinson, Warner, Sewall, Croly, and Miss Temple.

Brief papers were then given upon "Benevolent Work in Clubs," by Mrs. Mary E. Mumford; "Club Correspondence and Fellowship," by Miss Loraine P. Bucklin, of Providence, R. I.; and "Club Classes for Special Work," by Miss Mary McClelland.

Club reports for which there was not time were left for publication in

the *Woman's Cycle*. A resolution was offered by Mrs. Warner, "That this convention offer their hearty thanks to the Advisory Board for their work, which has made this session such a success." Carried.

Mrs. Clymer read a letter from the Chicago Woman's Club, inviting the General Federation to meet there at its first biennial convention.

Mrs. Sewall offered the following resolution: "Inasmuch as after the lapse of a few years it may be difficult to ascertain with whom this Federation originated, on behalf of historical accuracy I introduce the following, with the request that it be entered upon the minutes of this meeting and be printed in the report of this convention.

"*Therefore*, be it resolved, that the Federation, now happily formed and here convened, recognizes in Sorosis its originator and author and expresses with gratitude its profound sense of the obligations due to her."

The convention closed with farewell remarks from Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, and the singing of the National Hymn.

LIST OF OFFICERS AND MEMBERS OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION AS RECORDED

President: Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, East Orange, N. J.

Vice-President: Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Indianapolis, Ind.

Recording Secretary: Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York, N. Y.

Corresponding Secretary: Miss Mary B. Temple, Knoxville, Tenn.

Treasurer: Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, San Francisco, Cal.

Vice-Presidents: Sorosis, New York, Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer; New Century Club, Philadelphia, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford; Woman's Club of Orange, N. J., Mrs. Adaline Emerson Thompson; Brooklyn Woman's Club, N. Y., Mrs. Amelia K. Wing; Chicago Women's Club, Chicago, Mrs. L. L. Flower; Wheaton Seminary Club, Boston, Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill; Working Woman's Guild, Philadelphia, Mrs. E. S. Turner; Dunkirk Woman's Literary Club, N. Y., Miss Ella C. Lapham; Woman's Club of the Church of the Messiah, Buffalo, Mrs. G. W. Townsend; Woman's Club of Jamaica, L. I., Mrs. Mabel Smith; Monday Afternoon Club, Plainfield, N. J., Miss E. E. Kenyon; the Century Club, San Francisco, Cal., Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst; the Woman's Club, San Francisco, Cal., Miss Laura Musto; Froebel Society, Brooklyn, N. Y., Mrs. G. G. Brooks; the '81 Club, Kansas City, Mo., Mrs. M. F. Holden; the Wheaton Alumnae Association, Brooklyn, N. Y., Mrs. Kate Upson Clark; the Detroit Woman's Club, Michigan, Miss O. Bates; the Saturday Club, Leavenworth, Kan., President; the Hypatia Club, Wichita, Mrs. Sallie Toler; the Rhode Island Woman's Club, Providence, R. I., Mrs. Fannie P. Palmer; Woman's Club, Shelbyville, Ind., Presi-

dent; Helen Hunt Club, Cambridge City, Ind., President; Woman's Reading Club, Terre Haute, Ind., Mrs. R. A. Morris; Amaranth, New Albany, Ind., Miss S. M. Winstandly; Woman's Club, Muncie, Ind., President; Tourist Club, Frankfort, Ind.; Woman's Club, Indianapolis, Ind., Mrs. May Wright Sewall; Katherine Merrill Club, Indianapolis, Ind., Mrs. W. A. Ketcham; Woman's Literary Club, Dayton, Ohio, Mrs. J. A. Marley; Ossoli Club, Knoxville, Tenn., Miss Mary B. Temple; the Fortnightly, of Indianapolis, President; the Cycle, Richmond, Ind., President; the Woman's Press Club, Cincinnati, Ohio, Mrs. Alice Williams Brotherton; the Woman's Club, Pittsburg, Pa., President; the Woman's Club, West Newton, Mass., Mrs. E. N. L. Walton; the Springfield Woman's Club, Mass., Mrs. Maria L. Owen; New England Woman's Press Association, Boston, Mass., Mrs. Sallie Joy White; Woman's Club, Woburn, Mass., Miss M. E. Carter; Woman's Club, Worcester, Mass., Mrs. A. L. Sumner; Social Science Club, Newton, Mass., Mrs. Lucy N. Sawyer; Woman's Club, Melrose, Mass., Mrs. A. B. P. Waterhouse; New Century Club, Wilmington, Del., Mrs. J. Taylor Gause; Woman's Guild, Newtonville, Mass., Mrs. Mary R. Hill; Woman's Club, Wellesley Hills, Mass., Mrs. Joseph E. Fiske; Woman's Club, Framingham, Mass., Mrs. Fred. Clapp; "Old and New," Malden, Mass., Mrs. Cora E. Pease; the Woman's Club, Lynn, Mass., Mrs. F. W. Breed; the Home Club, East Boston, Mrs. J. W. Smith; Shakespeare Club, Fredonia, N. Y., Mrs. Charles L. Webster; Cosy Club, Bridgeport, Conn., President; Tuesday Club, Jackson, Mich., Mrs. Jennie R. Walker (secretary); Albany Woman's Educational Union, Albany, N. Y., Miss Mary McClelland; S. S. Club, Pottsville, Pa., Miss Emma Pott; Woman's Club, New Orleans, La., Mrs. J. G. Clark; Woman's Club of Wisconsin, Milwaukee, Wis., Mrs. Winfield Smith; Ruskin Art Club, Los Angeles, Cal., Mrs. H. H. Boyce; Clio Club, New York, N. Y., Mrs. A. B. Humphrey; the Union Club, Portland, Me., Miss Hattie Leavitt (secretary); Woman's Club, Fargo, N. Dak., Mrs. R. W. Bliss; Heliades Club, Chicago, Ill., Mrs. Mary E. Haven; Monday Club, Rockford, Ill., Mrs. Adeline E. Emerson; Woman's Anthropological Society, Washington, D. C., Miss Alice C. Fletcher; Associate Alumnae of Normal College, New York City, Miss Marguerite Merington.

Advisory Board: Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, East Orange, N. J.; Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, president of Sorosis, New York City; Mrs. J. C. Croly, Sorosis, New York City; Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, president of Brooklyn Woman's Club; Mrs. Fannie P. Palmer, president of Rhode Island Woman's Club; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, president of New Century Club, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. May Wright Sewall, president of Woman's Club, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson, of Old and New Club, Malden, Mass.; Mrs. Mabel Smith, president of Woman's Club, Jamaica, L. I.

THE ADVISORY BOARD

The first meeting of the Advisory Board, after the General Federation of Women's Clubs was organized, was held May 7, 1890, at No. 24 Union Square, New York City. There were present: Mrs. C. E. Brown, Mrs. E. D. Clymer, Mrs. A. K. Wing, Mrs. Mabel Smith, and the recording secretary, Mrs. Croly.

At this meeting, in addition to routine business concerning books, supplies of stationery, and the like, it was voted to make *the Woman's Cycle* the organ of official communication with the clubs, and to publish the proceedings just concluded in a "convention" number. Five hundred copies of this number were ordered for distribution among the clubs.

The Associate Alumnae of the Normal College, New York City; the Women's Anthropological Society of America, Washington, D. C., and the Heliades Club, of Chicago, Ill., were voted into the Federation as charter members, making the list as published in the first directory, sixty-five clubs, to which, at the first autumn meeting in October, held at the home of the president in Orange, three more were added: the Woman's Club, of Elmora, N. J.; the Woman's Club, of Salt Lake City; and the Shakespeare Club, of Grand Rapids, Mich.

Urgent letters had been received and were presented to the board at this meeting from two national societies—the "Queen Isabella" and the "National Council"—inviting coöperation in the work of the organizations; but, on motion of Mrs. Clymer, it was

Resolved, "That in the opinion of the Advisory Board, the question of joining other organizations can only be decided by vote of delegates at biennial meetings."

In the meantime, application for membership had been received by the president, Mrs. Brown, from the New England Woman's Club, ratified by its president, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; an acquisition which was received with rejoicing. In November (1890) the constitution of the General Federation was printed and distributed, accompanied by a "statement." This said:

"No cause having extensive ramifications attempts or can attempt anything of common interest without organization. Local interests may prosper, to an extent, apart from organization; but the general cause cannot. Everywhere this fact is recognized. Women's clubs cannot ignore it.

"It is ennobling and a source of inspiration for any club to feel that it is itself part of a great and growing movement that is to educate, elevate, and qualify woman for her increasing responsibilities."

At a full all-day meeting of the Advisory Board, on January 3, 1891, at the home of the recording secretary, the list of chairmen of State correspond-

ence was completed as far as possible, and the work defined. At this meeting the question of local federation, as it related to general club federation, was discussed, with special reference to the first organization of this kind, viz., the Social Science Club of Kansas and Western Missouri, representing a number of towns in these States.

A mass of club correspondence was submitted to the board, the following being among the first questions asked and answered:

"Which is the best hour for a club to meet—ten in the morning or three in the afternoon?

"Is it ever advisable to meet at seven or eight o'clock in the evening?

"Ought clubs to exceed one hundred and fifty members?

"Do clubs of several hundred members flourish, or are they unmanageable and apt to go to pieces?

"Do clubs ever attempt too much literary work?

"What is the effect of a number of associate members?

"Would it be possible or wise to lessen the fees and assessments of working members by the admission, say, of twenty or thirty associate members, each paying ten dollars?

"Do clubs ever become so expensive that women of moderate incomes are obliged to retire from them?

"Are discussions, conversations, and oral exercises ever quite extemporaneous? Is this an advantage?

"Are the talks usually papers learned and recited, instead of being read like the essays?

"What is the best method of securing fresh, living, spirited, thoughtful discussions from a full mind, and doing away with cut-and-dried 'prepared discussions'?

"Is it not wise, if possible, to combine in a club professional women, women of leisure, and tradeswomen?

"Does not each learn something from the other that they would lack if divided from each other?

"Is not character, wisdom, breadth of judgment, destruction of class prejudices, respect for the most diverse kinds of excellence, of merit for merits' sake, whether it be grace and elegance, professional, literary, business, or executive ability, even more the aim and object of women's clubs than purely intellectual culture? Is not this, at least, the result of the most valuable and successful clubs?"

Questions as to club interchange and reciprocity came from Colorado and the Pacific coast, but while the cultivation of social relations between clubs was strongly urged, it was felt that the methods could not be arranged by "act of parliament," but must grow out of local conditions and environment.

At later meetings of the Advisory Board, in February and March, the following clubs were received into membership :

The Pro Re Nata, Washington, D. C.; the Denver Fortnightly, Denver, Colo.; the Traveler's Club, Springfield, Ohio; the Marshalltown Women's Club, Marshalltown, Iowa; the Miller Art and Culture Club, Bonham, Texas; the Waterbury Woman's Club, Waterbury, Conn.; the Fortnightly Club, Piqua, Ohio; the Price Hill Tourists, Price Hill, Cincinnati, Ohio; the Monday Talks Club, Newark, Ohio; the Century Club, Sidney, Ohio; the Monday Club, Delaware, Ohio; the Willimantic Woman's Club, Willimantic, Conn.

It was also voted to convene the first " Council " of the G. F. W. C. in Orange, N. J., in May, in response to invitation from the Woman's Club of Orange, and to take the necessary steps for the incorporation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs under the Laws of the District of Columbia.

Special mention was made of the chairman of correspondence for Ohio, Miss Mary D. Steele, of Dayton, whose work for the Federation has been of great value.

The " Directory of Clubs," published in the *Woman's Cycle* for April, contained for the first time the list of federated clubs by States; the complete list of chairmen of State correspondence, with their territory, and the standing list of officers of the General Federation and Advisory Board. Massachusetts led with 15 clubs; New York came second, with 10; Indiana third, with 9; Ohio, fourth, with 8; Pennsylvania, 4; Connecticut, Iowa, Michigan, each 3; Colorado, District of Columbia, and Kansas, each 2; Delaware, Louisiana, Missouri, North Dakota, Rhode Island, Texas, Tennessee, Utah, Wisconsin, and Washington, each 1.

If the growth was slow for the first year it must be remembered that a " club year " is short, that the majority of such organizations disband in May or June, not to meet again till October; and that the conservative influence was still very strong.

To overcome this was a work of time and personal effort in the beginning, and demanded not only a change in the attitude of individuals, but of public opinion, in and out of the clubs, a change which once effected produced accumulative results.

A great impulse was received from the first meeting of the Council projected at East Orange, by invitation of the Orange Woman's Club. This invitation had been accepted by the Advisory Board, all of whose members had signified their intention to be present at the meeting, the programme for which was placed in the hands of the president, Mrs. Brown; the vice-president, Mrs. Clymer; the recording secretary, and the local committee of the Orange Woman's Club, or a substitute for the president, if she could

not attend. In the absence of both, written contributions to the discussion of topics, and plans for the first biennial meeting, were asked for.

The composition of the Council was democratic. Each president of a federated club became a member of it, thus putting the local clubs in touch with the General Federation, and through their chief officer giving them a voice in all deliberations affecting the general welfare.

The invitations to the gathering of the Council included the president, and one delegate from each club.

THE FIRST COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

The first Council of the General Federation met in East Orange, N. J., on Wednesday, May 20, 1891. The occasion was the nineteenth anniversary of the founding of the Woman's Club of Orange, and advantage was taken of the opportunity afforded by the cordial coöperation of the Orange Woman's Club to bring together the representatives of the federated movement, and unite with the anniversary exercises, a conference of the president and other officers of the federated clubs.

The session of the Council was held in Union Hall, and was presided over by Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, president of the General Federation. Beside her, upon the stage, were seated Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; Dr. Jennie de la M. Lozier, president of Sorosis; Mrs. J. C. Croly, recording secretary; Mrs. Mary Spaulding Brown, president of the Chicago Woman's Club, who acted as recording secretary in consequence of the indisposition of Mrs. Croly; and Miss Mary B. Temple, of Knoxville, Tenn., corresponding secretary of the Federation. The platform was decorated with plants and flowers. The delegates to the Council occupied the front rows of seats, and each one wore a bow of white ribbon, and a breast knot of lilies-of-the-valley sent by a member of the Orange Woman's Club. At the rear of the delegates the members of the Club were seated. Among the other women present were: Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, of Sorosis; Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, of Brooklyn Woman's Club; Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, of Boston; Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill, of Boston, president of the New England Woman's Press Club; Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson, Old and New Club, Malden, Mass.; Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, president of New York Wheaton Club; Mrs. T. B. Wakeman, president New York Society for Political Study; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, president of Philadelphia New Century Club; Mrs. Eliza S. Turner, president New Century Guild; Mrs. Ralph Emerson, of Chicago Monday Club; Mrs. George C. Frye, president of Woman's Literary Union, Portland, Me.; Mrs. J. A. Marlay, president of Woman's Literary Club, Dayton, Ohio;

Mrs. Fanny P. Palmer, president Rhode Island Woman's Club; Mrs. H. H. Backus, president of Brooklyn Woman's Club; Mrs. Mary A. Humphrey, president of Clio Club, New York; Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, president Monday Club, Plainfield; Mrs. L. F. Pope, president Ladies' Literary and Social Club, Elmora, N. J.; Mrs. Antoinette B. Blackwell, of Elizabeth, and Mrs. L. L. Riley, of Scotch Plains, founder of the Orange Woman's Club. About sixty-five delegates were present, representing clubs in eighteen States.

The proceedings were opened with prayer by Rev. Antoinette Brown Blackwell; and Mrs. C. E. Brown made a brief opening address, referring to the progress that had been made by the Federation during the year, and the encouragement and favor with which the movement had been met. Mrs. Croly was called upon and paid a fine tribute to Mrs. Brown for her work in behalf of the Federation. In the absence of the treasurer, Mrs. Phoebe A. Hearst, her report was read by Mrs. Brown. It showed: Receipts, \$535; expenses before and during organization, \$105.59; running expenses, \$212.76; balance on hand, \$216.65. The reports of the secretaries showed 108 clubs in the Federation, and 31 applications for membership. Statistics with reference to size of clubs, amount of fees, dues, and the like details, were given by Miss Temple.

Proposed amendments to the constitution were taken up, and it was decided to recommend to the biennial convention, to be held in Chicago in 1892, that the name of the Advisory Board be changed to that of the Board of Directors; that this Board of Directors consist of six general officers of the Federation *ex-officio*, and five others who should be members of the Council, and that these five members be elected at the biennial convention as a whole; and that not more than one-third of the Board of Directors be changed at any one biennial.

The subject of "Methods of Club Work" was referred to a committee, of which Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, of Brooklyn, was made chairman, to report at the biennial. The points to be covered by the report were the comparative value of large and small clubs, whether limitation of the membership of clubs was desirable, whether associate members were desirable, whether large clubs should divide into sections for separate and special study, the best method of electing members, whether it was by open ballot, or through a committee.

Is it better to discuss miscellaneous topics, or have a system of connected study?

The comparative value of written and oral addresses.

How far should home talent be cultivated in clubs, and outside talent invited?

Are club-houses desirable? How far should clubs engage in philanthropic work?

These were some of the questions suggested for consideration by the committee, and answered at the biennial in 1892. Another committee formed at the Council, to report at the biennial, was one upon "Club Intercourse and Fellowship," of which Mrs. Jane A. Marlay, of the Woman's Club, of Dayton, Ohio, was made chairman.

Several invitations were read from clubs who desired to entertain the General Federation at its first biennial meeting, but that of Chicago was accepted.

The question of incorporation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs was laid over for future action by the Advisory Board, and an adjournment effected for luncheon to "Glenmont," the residence of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas A. Edison, where an entertainment had been prepared, intended at once as a compliment to the Council and as a celebration of the nineteenth anniversary of the Orange Woman's Club.



MRS. THOMAS A. EDISON

The guests were received by the president of the club, Mrs. A. E. Thompson, and Mrs. Edison, assisted by Mrs. Theodore F. Seward, vice-president, and Mrs. Frank J. Barstow.

The beautiful home is admirably adapted for hospitality on a grand scale. Approached by a lovely drive, its interior appears at first sight like jewels set in remote spaces, the beauty in carving and fretwork and subtle suggestion of color heightened everywhere by plants and flowers.

The rooms do not convey the impression of unusual size, because of the air of cosiness, and the recessed windows are so deep; but upwards of two hundred ladies were seated without crowding at the tables in two rooms, and the brilliant effect of the sunlight through stained and jewelled glass upon the decorated tables and the gathering of brilliant women, cannot be described in words.

All the shades of orange and yellow had been massed in the nasturtiums, azaleas, and other flowers which filled the cut-glass bowls and dishes and were fringed with the yellow locust blossoms. One table across a bay-window was ornamented entirely with velvet pansies and purple *fleurs-de-lis*, and the windows were veiled with palms and ferns. The stairways were garlanded with dog-wood blossoms; in the vestibule were jars of superb roses, and in every corner color and fragrance.

In the centre of the principal table, presided over by Mrs. Adaline Emerson Thompson, president of the Orange Woman's Club, was the figure

of the sphinx in ice, upon an enormous plateau of glass, surrounded with ferns, smilax, and all the loveliest flowers of the conservatory. This suggestive figure was used most happily by Mrs. Thompson in her introductory speech. The favors were broad ribbons of orange satin upon which the menu was printed, and upon interior leaves the toasts.



LUNCHEON GIVEN TO FIRST COUNCIL OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION BY MRS. THOMAS A. EDISON, AT "GLENMONT,"
LLEWELLYN PARK, ORANGE, N. J.

The first, "Our Guests," was responded to by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, in whose honor the whole company rose and sang with electric effect the closing verse of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe's "Battle Hymn of the Republic":

"In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
With a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
As he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
While God is marching on."

Mrs. Howe said: "I am very glad to reply as well as I can to this most cordial greeting. It seems to me that we are living in the millennium without knowing it. Some of its prophecies seem to me to be fulfilled when I see these Southern and Western lions coming East to lie down with us 'lambs.'"

The toast of the "General Federation" was replied to by Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, who said "that in federated club life is a bond of sympathy that unites us in a common sisterhood. The solvent of all differences among us is love—love for each other and for our common work."

Mrs. Jennie de la M. Lozier spoke for "Our Sister Clubs"; Miss Mary B. Temple for "Club Anniversaries"; Mrs. A. Stone, of Worcester, for "Our Sisters without a Club"; and the "Other Half" received most appreciative treatment from Mrs. Mary C. Mumford, of Philadelphia, supplemented by an original poem from Mrs. Eliza Turner, of the New Century Guild of Working Women, which is said to have "brought down the house."

"Our Daughters" was responded to by Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, and "Our Homes, the Realms over which we Reign," by Mrs. G. Frye, of Portland, Me. The last toast was "Our Hostess and Host," responded to by Mrs. Edison, who excused her husband, but invited the ladies to visit his "workshop."

It will be seen that the domestic side of life was well represented at the Council banquet, and, if space could be given to the report of speeches, that only the brighter aspects of home life seemed to suggest themselves to individual experience.

In response to a call, Mrs. Croly said: "One thing will strike you all, as it has always struck me, and that is the all-round character of club women. The absence of sharp points, their sympathy and intelligence. Perhaps the many-sided character of the woman's club, and its central idea, unity in difference, attracts such women; but it is also because they come from the homes, because they have been wives and mothers and are ready for the human enlargement that club life brings. The eagerness with which the women's clubs all over the country have taken up history, literature, and art studies, striving to make up for the absence of opportunity and the absorption in household cares of their young womanhood, has in it something almost pathetic. But this ground will soon have been covered. Is there not room in the clubs for outlook committees, whose business it should be to investigate township affairs, educational, sanitary, reformatory, and on lines of improvement, and report what is being done, might be done, or needs to be done, for decency and order in the jails, in the schools, in the streets, in the planting of trees, in the disposition of refuse, and the provision for light which is the best protection for life and property."

On Thursday morning, May 21st, the Council met for an informal session at the residence of the president, Mrs. Brown, who, after a few words of welcome, asked for opinions upon federated club work.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe advocated the idea of outlook committees advanced by Mrs. Croly the day before, as one worthy of the Federation. She also advised more original work in club life, saying that she would rather know the life and thoughts of each woman than what they would gather from encyclopedias and ancient histories.

Mrs. Wing, of Brooklyn, thought that original work should be done before consulting encyclopedias and books of reference, if the writer wished to have her paper acceptable and individual. Mrs. Frye, of Portland, advocated the same idea.

Mrs. Marlay, of Dayton, Ohio, spoke of the methods employed in the Woman's Literary Club of that place, and urged extemporaneous speaking instead of prepared work.

Mrs. Ketcham, of Indianapolis, told of the new Propylæum for club and social purposes, built by a stock company of women, and a credit to the city.

Mrs. Mumford, of Philadelphia, said that the club-house of the New Century Club was nearly completed, at a cost of \$70,000. Women were the stockholders at \$50 a share.

After informal discussion of other questions connected with the detail of club life, the Council was resolved into a committee of the whole for the appointment of a treasurer in place of Mrs. Hearst, resigned in consequence of the death of her husband.

The choice fell upon Mrs. Jane O. Cooper, of the Denver Fortnightly, Denver, Colo.

Mrs. Mary Spaulding Brown, of Chicago, expressed the anticipations of the Woman's Club in the biennial meeting of the Federation, to be held in Chicago in 1892, and in the name of the club promised a most cordial welcome to the delegates. The names of nine members of the Woman's Club were then presented to form a local committee to act with the Advisory Board in the work of the programme for the first biennial. These ladies were: Mrs. J. P. Harvey, Mrs. James M. Flower, Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, Mrs. Caroline K. Sherman, Mrs. Lucretia Heywood, Mrs. Elizabeth H. Ball, Mrs. Frances B. Smith, Dr. Leila G. Bedell, Mrs. Mary Spaulding Brown.

A luncheon closed this notable gathering of the first Council of the General Federation.

The final work of the Council practically closed the club season, the "recess" having already begun with many organizations, the rest soon to follow. There were many agitating questions, however, in club ranks, and

the officers of the Federation, particularly the president, kept up a vigorous correspondence through the summer months, the record of which may be found in the *Cycle* of those dates.

Publicity was a stumbling block every step of the way. The women who composed club membership were not accustomed to seeing their names in print, and many were the queries in regard to lists of names, year books, programmes, black-balling, change of officers, amount of trust to be reposed in an executive committee, exclusion of the press, and like.

The first year books of country clubs were usually blank of names and addresses; it took years to induce members to consent to their publication. The trouble they gave provoked the following letter :

Recording Secretary, General Federation of Women's Clubs :

DEAR MADAM : Will you allow me to make a suggestion with regard to the club manuals and programmes, which is, that in all such documents the list of officers *with their addresses* be given, and that the name of the *city and State* in which the club is located be printed on the outside cover? If this is done in the future, it will simplify the work of those of us who correspond with other clubs very much. In looking over about one hundred club manuals I find that some do not have the name of the State printed where it can be seen, if at all, and that many do not give the list of officers. A few days ago I received a club manual with simply the name of the club on it—not even that of the State, or any definite name of the city—and but for information received by letter I should not have known whether it came from Maine or Kentucky. This is very confusing, and it takes a great deal of time to hunt up addresses and then perhaps run the risk of not having what one desires to send, reach its destination.

I offer this suggestion for the benefit of other club correspondents as well as for myself.

HARRIET H. ROBINSON.

The first meeting of the executive committee of the Advisory Board took place on September 19, 1891. The second upon October 9th, and the third upon November 11th.

At these meetings many clubs were added to the Federated list; outlines of programme for the biennial were discussed, and methods suggested by which clubs could be induced to correspond with their State chairman, and thus reduce the amount of centralized correspondence.

A secretary, paid out of the Federation treasury at the munificent rate of \$150 per annum, had been granted the president, but the work still continued onerous.

The list of federated clubs, as published in the *Cycle*, September 30, 1891, numbered one hundred and twenty-one (121), representing twenty-six States.

The clubs added during the autumn brought in three more States—Kentucky, Minnesota, and Georgia. Maine was represented by one federated club, the "Literary Union" of Portland, which included many small clubs.

Later, the committee on club intercourse recommended the printing and distribution among the clubs of cards of introduction; and the following engraved form was adopted:

G. F. W. C.	
Unity in Diversity.	
To the President of.....	
Introducing.....	
.....of the.....	
Club.....	
Please admit her to one of your meetings if convenient, and extend such courtesies as your Club is accustomed to grant.	
.....	
President of.....	

These cards proved a great incentive as well as useful medium of club intercourse.

Club receptions became frequent, to which neighboring clubs were invited, and comparison of methods of life and work obtained. Question cards sent out by the corresponding secretary received replies which furnished much useful information, and formed the basis of subsequent classification of club membership, organization, and methods of work. Models of constitution and "How to Form a Club" were in constant demand, and kept the voluntary "bureau of correspondence" active.

Extemporaneous speaking, as contrasted with labored and for the most part encyclopedical essays, excited lively interest; also, questions of parliamentary law, and the length of terms of official life. As the outlook became wider, interest deepened into enthusiasm, and when Mrs. Brown returned from a trip to Chicago, where she met the members of the biennial committee, and other active club women, it was with a greatly strengthened sense of the value and future possibilities of the Federation's work.

It had been arranged, subject to approval by the Advisory Board, that the first biennial gathering should take place upon the 11th, 12th, and 13th of



MRS. PHOEBE A. HEARST,
Treasurer General Federation, 1890

and much pleasant interchange of introductions and welcome among the interested groups of women, many of whom had traversed thousands of miles to make the history of this first biennial meeting of the first Federation of Women's Clubs.

The president was promptly in the chair, and upon the platform were Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, president of Chicago Woman's Club, the hostess of the occasion; Mrs. Charles Henrotin, vice-president of the Auxiliary Board of the Columbian Exposition; Mrs. May Wright Sewall, vice-president of the General Federation, and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe. Officers and members of the Advisory Board were interested and interesting accessories to the picture.

The president opened the session with a few remarks of congratulation and welcome, and called upon Rev. Antoinette Brown Blackwell, who offered a brief but fervent prayer.

Mrs. Brown then introduced the president of the Chicago Woman's Club, Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, who said among other things, after humorously speaking of common impressions in regard to Chicago—the absence of art, architecture, and the like:

"The club upon which you have bestowed the honor of your entertainment, though the largest, is not the oldest club of the city. The Fortnightly,

May, 1892. The Palmer House was selected as headquarters, and the Chicago clubwomen had generously offered to provide for all delegates who wished such entertainment at their homes.

When it became known that members of clubs who were not delegates could attend meetings, cars were chartered by a number of Eastern and Western clubs for the use of their membership, and evidences multiplied of growing interest and realization of the larger aims and many-sided character of the woman's club life.

THE BIENNIAL OF 1892

There was a large assemblage of delegates at Central Music Hall, Chicago, on the morning of May 11th,

which is distinctively literary and social, antedates us. Indeed, the idea of the woman's club was evolved from the brain of a Fortnightly woman, and was intended to do just what the Fortnightly did not do, viz., practical work. It is useless to detail to you how long it was before the practical seed began to bear fruit. The minds of timid, strictly conventional women had to be prepared. It required years of careful, judicious teaching before the members learned they might take an interest in the work and even the crime of the world without losing caste.

"So long was this planting process, several members grew impatient, and resigned because the club was not carrying out the idea of its founder as set forth in its original constitution. Now there scarcely seems to be a limit to the intrepid daring of our members; we have invaded jails, asylums, hospitals, court-rooms, county boards, and common councils, until 'those Women's Club women' has come to be a household word not over-loved by evil-doers.

"Many and strong are the societies that owe to us their origin, representing art, physical culture, kindergartens, protective agencies, and others.

"The last candidate for honors is the Municipal Order League. While this society is not strictly a child of the club, it is made up principally of club women. They intend to demonstrate that housekeeping does not begin at the front and end at the back door, but rather begins in the street, includes the back alley and all the vacant lots around. In this they are ably seconded by the Housekeepers' Association, and altogether mythology's historic stables are invited to a back seat.

"How the history of the past has ever managed to get on without the woman's club is really a mystery. We are not saying much about it for fear we shall be called egotistical, but we are prepared to prove that one of our women discovered America; and as for the Columbian Exposition, is not its lady president one of us? Have we not given a president to the Congress Auxiliary, and is not the president of the Illinois Woman's Board our honorary member?

"While we have none of that greediness which is characterized as 'wanting the earth,' the earth really seems desirous of placing itself in our charge, and our club-rooms are so small that the situation is becoming embarrassing. Beside all this practical work, our literary work is of no mean proportions. We have among us novelists, poets, essayists, and journalists, some of them known outside our city.

"We are divided into six departments: Home, philanthropy, reform, education, art and literature, science and philosophy. This division is not for rivalry, but merely for convenience in working. When one department does a good thing, each of the others is glad to approve. Indeed, the thing of which we are the most proud is not this or that great work accom-

plished, but the better methods by which we deal with each other. We hope that we have forever outgrown that petty, stultifying incentive—the love of defeating one's neighbor, otherwise known as 'competition the life of trade!' So far as our departments are concerned, we seem to have reached that stage of evolution in which one loves his neighbor as himself. Whether or not we are prepared to make this our personal creed belongs to another story.

"We have heard much, and hoped more, of the brotherhood of man. But it is just beginning to dawn upon this old hind-sighted world that the first step in the brotherhood of man is the sisterhood of woman, and this, I take it, is the meaning of this great gathering of serious, high-minded women in our midst to-day. It has been a long-cherished idea of mankind that womankind are unkind to each other; and that women never can agree is a proverb so trite that one should apologize for mentioning it. But it is as false as it is trite, as this assemblage before me so well demonstrates.

"Hitherto in the work of the world, only half the world has been interested. Man has been so afraid of his rights that he has lost the greatest of his rights, the intelligent help of woman. Carroll D. Wright, chief of the Labor Bureau, says that the entrance of woman into a wide industrial and educational field has endangered neither the integrity of the family, the purity of social life, nor the security and perpetuity of religious institutions, but that, on the contrary, the undeniable and inevitable result will be increased respect for women in every direction, because independence and capacity always bring respect.

"The Western club is an outgrowth of the necessities of Western women, and is truly indigenous to the soil, not a transplanting. Long before Chautauqua was thought of the clubs of the Northwest were pursuing courses of study by the Chautauqua methods. I look upon Kate N. Doggett in Chicago and the women who founded clubs in Dubuque, Quincy, Kalamazoo, Detroit, Davenport, Des Moines, and St. Louis as the founders of university extension. It was worked out by Northwestern women long years before the idea was adopted by men. While the Western and the Eastern clubs may differ in their nature because of the different needs out of which they were born, there should be in this Federation no East, no West, no North, no South. Otherwise the Federation has no meaning.

"But we feel sure of the meaning. It is not in vain that old Massachusetts sends representatives from eighteen clubs, headed by those veteran leaders Julia Ward Howe and Ednah D. Cheney. Portland, Maine, and Providence, R. I., have not neglected to come. Connecticut sends us Waterbury and Willimantic. Sorosis, the founder of the Federation, leads New York, with its gifted president and honorary president. Brooklyn, Albany, Buffalo, and Westfield follow their leader. Philadelphia has forgotten her love of old

times and sends us the New Century, while Pittsburg, Bradford, Allegheny, Pottsville, and Meadville are all helping to bury the old century. Orange, N. J., is the nursing place of the Federation and the home of its president, and Wilmington, Del., is keeping up its historic reputation by helping to make history. Sixteen clubs are with us from Ohio; thus are Ohio women preparing themselves to be companions for the clever men of that State.

"Sixteen clubs are here from Indiana, to which State we are indebted for so many clever women, among them the president of the National Council.

"Six clubs have come from Michigan, the State that is demonstrating that there is no sex in education.

"Iowa, the land of corn and plenty, and one of the pioneers in club work, is represented by eight clubs.

"Missouri, our excellent neighbor from over the river, sends four clubs, while Kansas, the battle-ground of the republic, sends us three, and far-off, healthful Colorado sends the same. Sleeping Water, Neb., is sufficiently wide awake to have a club and send a delegate, and here comes a young Sorosis all the way from Spokane Falls, Wash., while plucky Wyoming is too busy getting her delegates ready for Minneapolis, so she has forgotten the Federation, but the Federation has not forgotten her. The Pacific coast is represented by California, and the capital of our country honors us with two clubs. The dear old South is here—Louisville, Ken.; Helena, Ark.; Columbia, Ga.; Selma, Ala.; Denison, Texas; Memphis and Knoxville, Tenn., and New Orleans, La., have all come up to spend the summer with us as in *antebellum* days.

"At last accounts Illinois has sent the largest of all the delegations.

"There was a time in the history of man when Smith was a talismanic name, but to-day the tables are turned and Brown is our mascot.

"With our distinguished guests, Charlotte Emerson Brown, president of the General Federation of Clubs; Caroline Morrill Brown, the beloved founder of the Woman's Club, and last, but not least, Mary Spaulding Brown, our efficient chairman of Committee of Arrangements, there is every prospect we shall be browned to a turn.

"But I bid you welcome, thrice welcome, in the name of the Chicago Woman's Club."

Mrs. Brown's address dwelt at length upon the work of the General Federation, and the inspiration obtained from the knowledge of the work of the local clubs. It continued:

"What the local club is to its individual members the General Federation is to local clubs. The Federation is the local club two hundred times multiplied. What the local club does for a hundred women the Federation is doing for twenty thousand. And as there goes out from each local club an uncon-

scious elevating influence to every woman in its vicinity, thus uplifting and moulding the women of the whole nation; if the local club breaks down walls of separation and prejudice, and brings congenial women into friendship and coöperative effort, so the General Federation is securing the same grand results on a scale hundreds of times enlarged. This gathering of delegates is but a feeble illustration of what we should see if all the clubwomen whom the Federation has brought to know and trust each other could be gathered into one vast assembly, a great loving sisterhood, all having a common purpose, and each seeking the good of all. Such union and oneness as the Federation secures impart to our work a sense of largeness. It elevates and stimulates every club, and every clubwoman of every club who enters the charmed circle, to do her utmost and her best.

"The very hour the idea of a General Federation of clubs was suggested, and especially after the first club convention was called by Sorosis, at which about sixty clubs reported, a new life was breathed into the whole movement. And a year later, when the Federation ship was constructed and launched and fifty-two clubs came into actual membership, all these clubs, and one hundred and forty others that have since been federated, and still others that have not yet joined us, felt and showed that new blood and life had been imparted to them. They were no longer satisfied with what they had been doing, and began at once to plan and work upon higher ideals. All through the two years of federated life the tide of interest in the clubs has been constantly rising, and club work has greatly improved in quality, in extent, and in precious fruits. Think of two hundred clubs, with a membership of twenty thousand noble, earnest, cultured women, gathered from the various vocations of life, and from thirty-one different States, no longer strangers, but sisters, joining hearts and hands in a common cause; all thrilled by the same electric current, each striving to do her utmost and to be unexcelled by others—think of this, and then ask, if you can, of what use is the federation of clubs? You might almost as well ask of what use is a father's blessing, a nation's flag, or anything that generates high aim, earnest enthusiasm, and grand results. No great cause in politics, business, religion, or reform ever permanently prospered that was not organized. And women's clubs could not. Suppose, for a moment, that there had been no General Federation, or that it has now ceased to exist. Then should we begin to realize its value, just as we always do when 'blessings take their flight.' Let us say, for a moment, that there is and has been no General Federation, and what follows? About one-third of the women's clubs now in active operation would not even exist. Each club would be working on in its own rut, careless of others, and well satisfied with small things; there would be no broad general plan, no rallying centre, no coming together for consultation and comparison of methods, no

common fellowship and central bond of union, and no biennial meeting where clubwomen from thirty-one States convene, and through several days become acquainted with each other, form plans, express thought, and feel the uplifting influence of the great occasion, carrying the spirit of it back to their respective clubs. Take all this, and much more, away from the club movement, and clubwomen would find themselves startled with a sense of what they had lost. I do not see how any woman's club, strong or weak, that is earnest, sympathetic, and progressive in spirit and life, can consent to remain outside the federated life."

The report of the recording secretary summarized much that has been already stated. It concluded with a tribute to Mrs. Brown. The report of the treasurer of the General Federation showed an income of \$544.25; expenditures, \$538.79; leaving a balance on hand of \$5.46.

The roll-call of clubs, 189, closed the first morning's session.

The afternoon was occupied by reports from State chairmen and standing committees.

The report from California, by Miss Catharine H. Hittell, included the three clubs federated—two in Los Angeles, and one, the Century, in San Francisco. Of the latter she gave this pretty picture:

"Once a month there is a 'social,' which, under the management of the present chairman of Social Entertainment, has become the gala day of the month. The chairman usually carries out some particular idea in the decoration of the rooms for the social day. For instance, she has 'Rose Day,' when all the decorations were roses. Fine paintings of these flowers were hung on the walls or placed on easels, while gorgeous bouquets of roses occupied the mantels, tables, and niches in the rooms. A rose-colored light, diffused through the rooms, added to the beauty of the scene; and, of course, roses were the chief subject of the conversation when the ladies gathered for the afternoon reception. Another of the socials was the 'Egyptian Day,' when all the decorations were in Egyptian style, and fine collections of curios from Egypt were exhibited."

The report from Connecticut's four clubs was by Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson Abbott, and from Georgia by Miss Rosa Woodberry. The Woman's Press Club of Atlanta was the first organized in the State, and the first to enter the General Federation. It was followed by the Art Club of Columbus.

Illinois, through Mrs. Kate G. Huddleston, reported thirty active clubs, with a membership all the way from twenty to five hundred.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall reported the twenty federated clubs in Indiana, and Miss May Rogers the eight in the federation from Iowa.

The report of the Literary Union of Maine was made by Mrs. Etta H. Osgood; who claimed that though only one on the federated list, it repre-

sented twenty-five clubs, with an aggregated membership of two hundred and fifty-eight regular and one hundred associates, the clubs averaging fifteen members each.

Massachusetts reported its twenty-six federated clubs through its chairman, Mrs. M. F. Pratt. The report closed with the following words:

"We are learning every day that all interests are one and the same, and it seems to us that women's clubs are doing work for every cause which means the advancement of woman, which no other organization could possibly do; while the General Federation is binding us all more closely together in this great work."

Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone reported for the seven federated clubs of Michigan, and Mrs. Mary F. Holden for the five of Missouri, the Wednesday Club of St. Louis occupying the first place, as the largest, though the Friends in Council were much older.

Mrs. Florence Howe Hall reported for the three federated clubs of New Jersey; Mrs. Amelia K. Wing and her associate committee, Mrs. Harriet A. Townsend of Buffalo, Miss Ella C. Lapham of Fredonia, and Mrs. H. G. Ecob of Albany, for the twenty federated clubs of New York.

The District of Columbia was represented by two active organizations, the "Pro Re Nata" and the Woman's Anthropological Society, reported by Mrs. Jean Davenport Lander.

This closed the reports for the day. In the evening a reception was given at the Art Institute by the Woman's Club of Chicago, the president of the General Federation assisting the president of the Woman's Club in receiving, while other officers aided in making the occasion one of varied interest. Music and flowers were in happy profusion; the works of art gracing the walls contributed to the enjoyment of the occasion, while not less worthy of interest was the throng itself, the gathering together of so much that represented the growth and enlightenment of a nation. From eight until eleven o'clock the spacious hallways and galleries were crowded with groups of men and women, who brought away a very strong and personal sense of obligation to the Chicago Woman's Club for this proof of its hospitality.

The morning session of Thursday, May 12th, was called to order by the president, Mrs. C. E. Brown, at 10 A.M., and the report of the Committee on Club Intercourse and Fellowship, appointed by the Council, was given as follows:

Mrs. President and Members of the Biennial Conference of Women's Clubs:

The Committee on Club Intercourse and Fellowship, appointed by the Council which met in Orange, N. J., May, 1891, presents the following report upon the topics specified for its consideration, namely:

- I. Club manuals.
- II. The practicability and value of neighborhood club gatherings.
- III. The desirability of district or State conferences.
- IV. The separate membership of each club in the Federation.
- V. Cards of introduction for visiting members of clubs, and suitable form for the same.

First.—As for correspondence, your committee holds that whatever conduces to a fuller acquaintance of clubs with each other, whatever tends to a closer affiliation is valuable; and as correspondence between clubs is an efficient means to the attainment of these ends, it would most heartily recommend it.

A general correspondence between clubs is practicable only through a special club organ. But by such a touch of club with club as this would afford, the club spirit would be intensified, club intelligence more readily disseminated, views of our work enlarged, bonds of unity and sympathy established, enthusiasm increased, and such wide outlooks of possibilities opened as we hardly dare picture to-day. Special correspondence for special purposes could be made of great advantage when the needs of clubs required it.

Second.—The exchange of club manuals, which give a true impression of the individuality and work of their clubs, is a valuable correspondence in itself. Through these much condensed information can be obtained which could not be so satisfactorily specialized by letter. In addition to the programme, a complete manual should contain the constitution, by-laws, and general regulations of the club, for these give its aim and spirit in a most direct way, assuming, of course, that no part of them is a dead letter. It would be a convenience to have upon the title-page of the manuals not only the date of organization, but that of the club's federation, as well as the time and place of its meetings.

To those who prepare the yearly programmes of the clubs a collection of these manuals is invaluable in the way of helpful suggestion and direction; therefore your committee would recommend a free exchange of them.

Third.—The frequency of neighborhood club gatherings proves a growing appreciation of their benefits. Many of the advantages which this biennial meeting yields are, though in a less degree, incidental to them. The tendency to club exclusiveness, monotony, and self-sufficiency is as strong and requires to be as resolutely combated in the clubs as in individuals, and where can this be done more efficaciously than in these gatherings, where the purpose is to weigh, reckon, and compare common interests?

Such contact must result in broader views, higher aspirations, and fairer judgments of ourselves and others.

While the Federation meeting must be officially constructed, and upon a

representative plan, State and district meetings may be more loosely arranged, adaptable to fixed conditions and local interests.

The practicability of these social gatherings in closely populated centres, or in large cities, where there are many clubs, is evident.

Under opposite conditions the obstacles of distance, travel, and expense, unless there was a felt need for such meetings, would prove serious drawbacks to full attendance and their regular continuance.

With the established biennial meeting, the interchange of views that could come through properly regulated correspondence, the reports that visiting members take back to their clubs, and that free discussion of topics which a club organ affords us, it does not seem that formal State organizations are demanded.

Fourth.—In the opinion of your committee each club should hold a separate connection with the Federation. There can be no club so weak financially but that it would be possible for it to raise in some way the \$10 biennial fee. By this individuality its self-respect and dignity would be maintained, and the needed fund for the Federation treasury at the same time be supplied.

At the request of the Advisory Board, a partial report was sent to it by this committee.

The full acceptance by this board of the suggestions in regard to the cards of introduction, and the immediate issue of these, was extremely gratifying to the committee, and as we have had good reason to believe, acceptable to our club members generally.

MRS. JANE B. MARLAY,	MRS. H. A. TOWNSEND,
DR. JENNIE M. LOZIER,	MISS MARY D. STEELE,
MRS. L. L. FLOWER,	MRS. A. E. EMERSON,
MRS. VIRGINIA B. THOMAS,	MRS. L. E. B. CONVERSE.
MRS. JUDITH W. SMITH,	

Club methods The report of the Committee on Club Methods, Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, chairman, was an interesting feature of Thursday morning's (May 12th) session. The report discussed the detail of club work, and the conclusions arrived at were "that its development cannot be settled by rule, but must grow out of local conditions and environment."

One of the vital points was, How to make Federation meetings of direct advantage to local clubs? This question was frequently asked by individual members who do not attend the biennial meetings, and question the advantage of the Federation, and it is important that the value of the movement should be realized.

This can be done by so conducting the meetings that the subjects dis-

cussed shall be of general interest to all clubs; by the comparison of methods of work and government; by the publication of reports and important discussions; by the attendance and active coöperation of delegates, who shall carry back some of the fire of enthusiasm and earnestness; by allowing time so that meetings shall not be hurried, and give opportunity to make acquaintance and gather in a store of new ideas.

Each federated club should set apart a day, as soon after the meeting as possible, which should be devoted wholly to the subject, to reports of delegates, and to club work generally.

To what extent should clubs undertake philanthropic work?

Club life is incomplete if lived for self alone. Large clubs should give their approval and assistance to some form of philanthropic work, occasionally at least. They should not make themselves agents for the promotion of other people's enterprises, sell tickets, nor undertake work which can as well be performed elsewhere. But when there is need for action, they should, as a whole, or through committees, make themselves felt for good. The career of live clubs demonstrates this.

It depends on locality and needs. A club may indirectly aid by allowing papers and discussions in behalf of some cause, thus giving the enterprise a sort of prestige.

As the majority of club members are engaged in from one to six charities, it seems a mercy to give them one resting-place. Clubs should confine themselves to the objects for which they were organized. When women understand political economy better they will do much better benevolent work.

Philanthropic work is not new to women. The woman's club as a means of recreation, intellectual exercise, and growth is a new feature. It seems best to keep the ideas distinct.

"Are Club-houses Desirable and Practicable?" was the subject of a brief paper by Mrs. Ellen M. H. Peck, of Milwaukee, Wis.

Mrs. Peck was the originator of the first woman's stock company for the erection of a building for club purposes (summer, 1886), and spoke of the Athenæum of Milwaukee as the outgrowth of the woman's club of that city. The record will be found elsewhere.

The discussion of the constitution, announced as the order for the second morning, was deferred to give time for the hearing of a paper by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, vice-president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the World's Fair. Mrs. Henrotin's paper summarized the projected work of the "Women's Congresses," since become history. Mrs. Henrotin continued:

"The congresses are not to represent the need and the work accomplished by American women, but must consider the position of the women of all lands. The great French nation was the first to realize that while the

material exhibits of universal expositions are potent factors in the progress of modern civilization along the lines of commerce, invention, manufacturing, education, art, science, still every exposition would be incomplete were not the spiritual, economic, and intellectual progress of thought exemplified by means of congresses and conferences. During the last Exposition in Paris, in 1889, twenty-six congresses were held, some of which were productive of immediate good. A Woman's Congress was held, presided over by M. Jules Simon, the vice-president of the congress being Madame de Morsier, the same lady who is chairman of the committee of women having in charge the

interests of French women at the Columbian Exposition. The reports made to the congress by the presidents of the various associations represented were chiefly on educational, charitable, and philanthropic work."

She closed with the following trenchant words:

"The two great factors of modern civilization are coöperation and centralization. The greatest proof of this truth is the fact of this meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs. The value of one person's mind or one person's work is steadily diminishing; it is the associate mind, the many hearts beating as one, that now move the world, and this is so well understood by women that they are rapidly learning what can be accom-



MRS. ELLEN M. HENROTIN

plished in economic, social, and intellectual life by the power of an educated public opinion. And such a gathering as this is a tremendous power for good, reaching out all over the land.

"Women have achieved much during the past forty years of the world's history, and they are rapidly adapting themselves to new avenues of employment, and boldly entering the new paths of knowledge; not alone in America, but in England and on the Continent—even from Turkey and the Orient—come to us voices on the breeze, inarticulate, it is true, but expressing the 'divine discontent' which is the forerunner of freedom, of equality, and of fraternity.

"Society is awaking to the truth that no one nation has spoken the last words of wisdom, and national prejudices are disappearing. The willingness to learn one of another is ever on the increase. In these international conferences we shall learn each other's needs and necessities, participate by sympathy in the victories which have been won, and aid by our words of encouragement the battles yet to be fought. These congresses will be especially valuable to women, for they have to adjust themselves to an entirely new point of view as regards their political, social, economic, and spiritual life."

The work of the board of lady managers for the World's Fair was the subject of a paper given by Mrs. M. L. Gould, member of the board for Illinois, and was supplemented by Mrs. Helen M. Barker, of South Dakota, who spoke for the Women's Industrial Department and the Dormitory Building. The session closed with some remarks by Miss Frances Willard, who said she brought the greeting of Mrs. Potter Palmer, then abroad.

The evening was filled by a lecture upon "Realism in Art," by Mrs. Ednah Dean Cheney, of Boston, Mass., and a reading from Greek poets by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, who closed by reciting by request her "Battle Hymn of the Republic," which Miss Alice Mitchell afterward sang with fine effect, bringing the whole audience to their feet in a wave of enthusiasm.

The adjournment was till 9.30, Friday morning, May 13th, when the Federation met in executive session for the discussion of the revision of the constitution. The illness of the corresponding secretary and the consequent deferring of her report were regretted, and then the discussion of details proceeded until the hour for the open meeting arrived, when the president took her place upon the platform, and one of the most interesting and valuable of the contributions to the work of the convention was made by Dr. Lelia G. Bedell, of the Chicago Woman's Club, in her paper, "Helps and Hindrance in the Organized Work of Women." The "aggressive member," the "chronic objector," the "inevitable obstructionist"; the "personally important" woman, who regards herself as the pivotal centre of affairs, all came in for a share of the castigation administered to those who hinder rather than help. "Among our helps," said Dr. Bedell in conclusion, "we must not forget men, and through them the press. The woman movement has become the human movement. Whatever advances woman elevates the race. The representative of the press is a strong ally of the woman's movement, and gives us important aid in advancing our interests and influence. And, lastly, we come to the climax of all our helps, for it embraces all that have gone before, and owes its existence to these; for without harmony and toleration and intelligence and courage we could never have reached the high plane upon which we stand to-day, and belt our country from Atlantic to Pacific with this girdle of friendly and helpful intercourse—the General Federation of Women's

Clubs. In Federation, then, is our final and greatest help. It opens to us new sources of intelligence in our work; it makes us acquainted with what needs to be done, what is being done, and how it is done; it widens our views of humanity; it gives us greater tolerance and appreciation; it brings to us new views of life and higher values of all the methods at work for the moral evolution of the world—every influence for the moulding of human character; everything that touches the great mass of humanity to make it smoother and more symmetrical. It teaches us that every movement which has for its object the amelioration of human conditions, however humble its origin or crude its methods, is worthy of our interest and respectful consideration. In federation we have taken a long step toward the universal brotherhood of man. It is an outgrowth of the general tendency to universality, under the influence of which the world grows smaller, nations more friendly, States more neighborly, and man more generous in his impulses and broader in his views. It is a rallying of the moral forces of the world for a peaceful conflict of right against wrong, under one banner, upon which is inscribed—‘Onward!’”

Dr. Bedell was followed by Mrs. Croly in a paper upon the same subject. Mrs. Croly, confining herself to the club aspect of organization, said: “A great obstacle in women’s clubs does not come from evil intention, but from the rigidly good—from the spirit of Pharisaism that takes possession of the altars and the temples, and demands that every one shall adopt its rules and measurements, or be put under a ban. There is no appeal from this form of intolerance, this goodness which begins and ends with an exclamation point, yet entrenches itself in the Gibraltar of a conscience that is to become the anchorage of all who would not be impaled upon it.

“Haste, publicity, personal ambition, and the willingness to use unworthy means to accomplish personal ends, are all foes of club life, but if I were to state what seems to me the great hindrance of all to club life and growth, it would be the employment of political methods, of political machinery and wire-pulling to bring about results. Politics can never be purified until its methods are changed, while its introduction into our club life subverts the whole intention and aims of club organization. Among the most helpful influences was particularized the loyal, steadfast member.

“Who does not know the woman who can be relied upon in a club? The one who can quiet, or be quiet, in a storm; who can help in an emergency; who sees the good points and makes them more apparent; who helps to cover an error rather than make it more glaring; who gives to the club the best that is in her—glad if it be found useful and meet with approval, but willing to consider, and willing to wait, without bitterness of thought or speech, if it failed to be recognized. This is the true clubwoman, and there are many of them, and more coming.”

The subject stimulated lively discussion, which was participated in by Mrs. Antoinette Brown Blackwell; Mrs. Sarah M. Perkins of Cleveland; Mrs. Cheney, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Hibbard of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Henrotin, Mrs. Stevens, Mrs. Julia Dyer, Dorchester, Mass.; Mrs. Harriet Townsend, Buffalo, and Miss Ada Sweet, Chicago.

Dr. Bedell closed the discussion by requesting that as federated women felt pride and pleasure in the fact of their club being part of the great body, so they would like to be able to recognize any other women, whether in Maine or Alaska, who belonged through her club to this organization. She recommended that some simple little badge pin be designed which all could procure and wear.

At 2 P.M. the General Federation met in executive session and took up the revision of the constitution, which was finally adopted as amended. (See Appendix to this volume.)

In accordance with the constitution as adopted, a Nominating Committee was chosen, made up of a delegate from each State; the chairman, Miss Octavia W. Bates, Michigan.

The committee reported as follows:

President, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown; vice-president, Mrs. J. P. Harvey, Chicago; recording secretary, Miss Katherine Nobles, Louisiana; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary B. Temple, Tennessee; treasurer, Mrs. J. O. Cooper, Colorado; auditor, Mrs. H. H. Robinson, Massachusetts.

Advisory Board: Mrs. McD. Ketcham, Indiana; Mrs. E. C. Stirling, Missouri; Miss May Rogers, Iowa; Mrs. Fanny P. Palmer, Rhode Island; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Massachusetts; Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York; Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, California; Miss Octavia W. Bates, Michigan.

The chair appointed the following tellers: Mrs. J. A. Robert, Mrs. M. T. Holden, Mrs. Sallie F. Toler, Mrs. C. J. Robertson, Mrs. P. M. Holden, Mrs. Etta H. Ogsood, Mrs. J. W. Harvey, Miss Katherine Nobles, Mrs. Fanny Havens.



MRS. CHARLOTTE EMERSON BROWN,
Reflected President General Federation of Women's
Clubs

GENERAL FEDERATION

The result of the balloting was the election of the following officers:

President, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, East Orange, N. J.; vice-president, Mrs. Julia Plato Harvey, Chicago, Ill.; recording secretary, Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York, N. Y.; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary B. Temple, Knoxville, Tenn.; treasurer, Mrs. Jane O. Cooper, Denver, Colo.; auditor, Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson, Malden, Mass.

Board of Directors: Mrs. Josephine Bates, San Francisco, Cal.; Miss Octavia W. Bates, Detroit, Mich.; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. Lilla McDonald Ketcham, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Philadelphia, Pa.; Mrs. Fanny P. Palmer, Providence, R. I.; Miss Katharine Nobles, New Orleans, La.; Miss May Rogers, Dubuque, Ia.; Mrs. Cordelia I. Sterling, St. Louis, Mo.

On motion, Mrs. Croly, Mrs. Lozier, and Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown were named as a committee for the obtaining of a "badge pin," as suggested by Dr. L. Bedell.

On motion, the *New Cycle* was adopted as the organ of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

There was a great gathering in the evening to listen to a symposium upon "Educational Problems." Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier spoke for "The Educational Influence of Women's Clubs"; Mrs. J. N. Crouse for the "Kindergarten"; Mrs. Ellen M. Mitchell for "University Extension"; Mrs. Eva Perry Moore for "The Higher Education"; Mrs. Ella F. Young for "Classic Study in Our Public Schools."

The closing address was made by Mrs. May Wright Sewall, ex-vice-president of the General Federation.

The reelected president, Mrs. Brown, was complimented by a magnificent basket of roses. Her closing remarks were: "And now the first biennial of the Federation of Women's Clubs is adjourned to meet in May, 1894, and the federated club women of America return to the thirty-one different States from which they have come in the far East and the far West and the far North and the far South, and all points between, with love and gratitude in their hearts to the women and the men of Chicago who have shown them such royal hospitality."

The Federation adjourned to meet in May, 1894.

The official report of the first biennial closed as follows:

"The first biennial meeting of the Federation of Women's Clubs will be long remembered by those who were so fortunate as to participate in it; and it was a fortuitous circumstance that placed it in the city of Chicago, now deservedly called the Metropolis of the West. The new Chicago, built on the ashes of the old, and not to be realized by those who have not seen it during the past decade, is a magnificent city, girdled by a system of parks

and boulevards not equalled elsewhere upon this continent, and lined by residences that are palaces—and that can never be encroached upon by the business part of the city. The buildings for the Columbian Exposition are nearly completed, and already present a beautiful and picturesque appearance. The great fair promises to surpass all others; but to foreign visitors Chicago itself, the city of the great plain, with its eager multitudes and splendid modern equipment, will be the greatest marvel."

An editorial in the Chicago *Inter-Ocean* expressed public sentiment as follows, in regard to "women and women's clubs":

"No one could have viewed the brilliant assembly in the spacious rooms of the Art Institute, Wednesday evening, without a buoyant feeling of pride in American womanhood. There is something impressive in the fact of a federation of 200 women's clubs, numbering a membership of nearly 20,000, representing the manifold interests of the home, of philanthropy, of reform, of education, of art and literature, of science and philosophy; and there is something inspiringly beautiful in the spectacle of numerous delegates from these many clubs brought together by moral, intellectual, and social affinities to confer with each other and to strengthen by their united sympathies the influences of the woman's movement, that is one of the glories of the end of the century.

"Chicago may count herself honored in this extraordinary gathering of notable women, the like of which was never seen here before. We have had women's conventions without number, and have seen conferences of women for the discussion of every subject under the sun; but this is the first time we have ever had an assembly of hundreds of gifted women with no special reform to agitate, but representative of all that is best in the moral-intellectual estimate of and incentive to human progress. In this concourse we see an emphatic and comprehensive demonstration of the aphorism that this is woman's century, since it is impossible to study the faces in which the animation of high ideals, resolute purpose, and mental culture defines the purest beauty without experiencing the conviction that the uplifting and on-sending of the race of man in the individual, and of mankind in the mass, is no more the work of sex than it is of sect, and that in the great domain of life woman is co-equal and coördinate with man. In preceding centuries there has been



MISS MARY B. TEMPLE,
Corresponding Secretary, General
Federation

instances of female sovereignty in various spheres without any general improvement of the condition of women.

"This century will be famous throughout all history as the period of woman's self-achieved emancipation from the yoke of prejudice, misapprehension, and wrong she had borne with patience from immemorial time, and the sweeping away of sex distinctions in the enjoyment of privileges and the exercise of rights in the noblest provinces of mind.

"In the remarkable assembly of Wednesday night were dozens of women who have achieved celebrity; gifted, accomplished women who have added the glories of scholarship to the charms of womanhood, and are teaching skeptical man the no longer humiliating lesson that they are his compeers, even dangerously near to becoming his superiors. Women have learned the strength of union, and the Federation of Clubs is to prove a mighty force in the next few years in all ethical and æsthetical matters, and the success of the first biennial congress will give an impetus to the women's movement that will carry it out of the realm of problems."

The conclusion of the first biennial convention closed the second chapter in the history of the General Federation, and prepared it for the larger work that lay before it. Its early work had been the gathering of local clubs; inspiring them with an enlarged sense of relationship and fellowship; collecting information; spreading information; comparing methods; in short, laying brick by brick the lower stories of a house of "many mansions."

The summer of 1892 saw the initiation of the State Federation by the organization of the State at Portland, Me. The question settled itself. The way to show whether a thing can be done is to do it. Maine did it, and within four years twenty-five other States followed in her footsteps.

THE FEDERATION CONGRESS AT CHICAGO

The principal work of the General Federation for the autumn and winter months of 1892 and 1893 consisted of preparations for the "Council" day in the congresses of women at the World's Fair, May, 1893.

Only one board meeting was found practicable, and that occurred on September 15th, at the home of the president.

At this meeting, Mrs. Julia Plato Harvey, vice-president of the General Federation, was made chairman of the Federation Department Congress of the Columbian Exposition, with Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, Mrs. Mary S. Brown, Mrs. Kate G. Huddleston, and Mrs. Frances B. Smith as assistants. Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer was made chairman of a committee upon club exhibits, aided by Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, Mrs. Joseph Haven, and Miss Loraine P. Bucklin.

The question of "club exhibits" had occasioned lengthy discussion and a wide correspondence. What should they consist of?

There were only year books and pictures, which were principally photographs of club officers, to make an exhibit out of, and fears were entertained lest an attempt of this kind should fail to do club work justice.

A Committee upon Foreign Correspondence was formed, with Miss Octavia W. Bates, of Detroit, as chairman, and the Committee upon Club Intercourse and Fellowship made gratifying progress in the definition and classification of its work.

The date decided upon for the Council meeting was May 18th, and the following topics were suggested for discussion:

"State federation." "The Philadelphia Biennial." "How can clubs be helpful to one another?" "What can be done by clubs in behalf of women who may not have had literary training, but who are anxious for improvement?" "The study of parliamentary law and its value to club women."

The response to the call for the congress afforded gratifying evidence of growing strength and enlargement.

Twenty-eight States were represented in the fine gathering of club women assembled on that occasion, and who brought the greeting of hundreds of the most representative clubs in the General Federation. Among them were: Mrs. C. M. Severance, the first president of the New England Woman's Club, who had come from her distant home in Los Angeles, Cal.; Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, the "club mother" of Michigan; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; Mrs. Sarah Cooper, the great kindergarten worker of the Golden Gate; Mrs. Flower and Mrs. Stevenson, of Chicago; and hundreds more, each one representing the living issues and active movements in the world of thought and educational development.

The congress was opened by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, the vice-president of the Woman's Auxiliary, who welcomed it to the list of the congresses of representative women in her peculiarly happy way.

In her brief address the president of the General Federation, Mrs. C. E. Brown, reviewed the work of the year. She said in part:

"We now have 278 clubs in actual membership, and more upon the way. The value of the Federation to local clubs is better understood and more highly prized. The point to be guarded against is the separation of State bodies and local clubs from the General Federation. The Federation is now thoroughly organized, and rests on a broad, deep foundation that insures stability. Its aim is not dominion, but service, and all its plans are to that end."

"State Federation" was the subject of an able paper by Mrs. H. P. Belt Stevens, and was discussed by Mrs. Osgood, of Portland, Me.; Mrs. Cordelia

Sterling, of Missouri; Mrs. Gregory, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Berryhill, of Iowa; Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, of Illinois; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, of Michigan; Mrs. Scammon, of Kansas City; and by letter from Mrs. H. H. Robinson, of Massachusetts, and Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, of New York.

As a whole, State federation was not only approved—it was considered inevitable. It was shown that Indiana had a union of literary clubs antedating any State federation; and Kansas and Western Missouri a Social Science Club, composed of clubs existing in both States. Portland's Literary Union, Portland, Me., existed before the first State federation was formed, and it was considered that State organizations would unify and bring in touch with each other young and weak clubs that could hardly find a place in the General Federation.

"How Clubs can be made Most Helpful" was the subject of a brief but interesting discussion, by Mrs. Louise White, of Peoria, Ill.; Mrs. Sawyer, of West Newton, Mass.; Mrs. Blount, of Washington; Mrs. Antoinette V. Wakeman, of Chicago; Mrs. Immen, of Grand Rapids; Mrs. Brotherton, of Cincinnati, and Mrs. Croly, of New York.

"Parliamentary Law for Clubs" was presented in so interesting a way by Mrs. Martha Strickland that her time was extended by vote, and the discussion suspended.

In the afternoon the Chicago Woman's Club gave a large reception in honor of the guests of the World's Congress of Representative Women and the General Federation of Women's Clubs, at the Auditorium Hotel. The occasion was a very brilliant one. The receiving party included the officers of the club and the Chicago women most prominent in World's Fair work.

The draperies were all of the American national colors, but, aside from bouquets of roses placed here and there, no attempt was made to enhance the setting of a picture whose living element was contributed by all the States of the Union, and many countries of the entire world.

The evening session began with the reading of an original poem, "The Discoverer," by Mrs. Frances Lester Rowland, president of the Grand Rapids, Mich., Ladies' Literary Club. The subjects of papers were: "Results of Club Life of Women upon Society and the Home"; "Club Life as a Means of Intellectual Growth: its Dangerous Tendencies, and its Individual Responsibility," and "The Work of Clubs in Public Life." Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, of Chicago, was the first speaker, followed by Mrs. L. W. Learned, of St. Louis, and Miss Ada Sweet, of Chicago. "Dangerous Tendencies" was discussed by Mrs. Kate P. Galpin, of Los Angeles, Cal., in a striking paper, the effect of which was enhanced by the personality of the speaker.

At the business meeting of the Council of the General Federation, held on the following morning, May 19th, the Iowa State Federation was received

into membership, and a local committee formed to arrange for the Philadelphia Biennial.

The reports made by Miss Temple, the corresponding secretary, and Mrs. Croly, the recording secretary, gave the statistics of the General Federation, its growth and present condition. The delegates present represented twenty-eight States, and the membership showed an increase from 190 on May 10th, 1892, to 285 in May, 1893.

A special report was made by Octavia Williams Bates, as chairman of a Committee on Foreign Correspondence, which stated that a list had been obtained of women prominent in literature and philanthropy throughout the world.

Mrs. Jennie de la M. Lozier reported for the committee on the Federation badge pin. She said:

"Mrs. Croly and Mrs. Brown had already chosen blue as the Federation color; the dawn, with sun's rays, as the symbol, and 'Unity in Diversity' as the motto. Our principal effort was to obtain a design, and put it into a form that would be good and suggestive yet within the reach of every club woman.

"We found an artist who comprehended ideas, and was able to group them effectively, gracefully, and cheaply in silver, enamelled, engraved, and well made in the form of a convenient pin.

"The distribution in the brief time since its completion has reached 4,000; only one club having ordered for its every member. This is the Fortnightly Jaunts, of Madison, N. J. The banner club of the Federation so far is the West End Club, of Chicago, which ordered 150. What is the advantage of the pin? Well, it is a symbol, and therefore stands for an idea—the comprehensive idea of its motto. It emphasizes our intellectual and spiritual kinship with other club women, and excites a feeling which in time deepens and becomes permanent."



Among the ladies whose hospitalities were extended to the Council were: Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mrs. Charles Henrotin, Mrs. John Coonley, Mrs. William Thayer Brown, Mrs. Fitzsimmons, Mrs. W. J. Chalmers, Mrs. A. E. Clark, and others. The West Side Woman's Club signalized itself by a magnificent reception given through the courtesy of the Illinois Club of gentlemen at their beautiful home on Ashland Avenue. The entire house, with its attendance and resources, was placed at the disposal of the West Side Woman's Club, who were thus enabled to entertain the women of the federated clubs in royal fashion. Palms and potted plants were arranged about the club-rooms, and the ballroom had the appearance of a conservatory. At the top of the stairs leading to the second floor hung the red and gold of Spain. On

each side of the Spanish colors there floated a banner. This inscription was on the one to the right: "Chicago greets the World, 1893," and "The Columbian Year" was written in large white letters on the banner at the left.

A bust of Columbus stood in the reception-room on the second floor. Here the guests were received as they arrived by Mrs. W. J. Chalmers and the ladies of the reception committee, Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mrs. Henrotin, Mrs. A. E. Clark, Mrs. Bushnell, Mrs. Fitzsimmons, and Mrs. Billings. The effect of the picturesque interior was very striking, and to its play of light and color the exquisite toilets gave additional charm.

First club exhibit.

The first material exhibit of federated clubs was made in connection with the exhibition of women's work in the Woman's Building of the World's Fair.

The exhibition was in the Organization room, and consisted of illustrated and decorated year books and calendars, groups of officers in frames, pictures of club-houses, and volumes of selected papers and historic sketches.

The Federation year of 1893 to May, 1894, was quiet and apparently uneventful.

But the work of gathering in the local clubs went swiftly on, and the local federation idea developed itself in many ways.

It was found, also, that while the club life was animated by certain underlying principles, the work and methods were varied and full of individual interest. Acquaintance with these methods, and the new ideas constantly suggested and developed by local clubs, stimulated a new departure, the detail of which was carried out in a complete directory of clubs, with lists of club presidents and secretaries, and, in addition, classified departments of their work. This was published in the *Cycle* of April, 1894, and distributed also as a leaflet among the federated clubs.

First classified directory of clubs and club work.

Previous to that time the club directory had consisted of names of federated clubs, their presidents and secretaries, and the list of officers, maintained by monthly and afterwards quarterly publication in the *New Cycle*. The more comprehensive list was made at the instance of the president of the General Federation, Mrs. C. E. Brown, and was the beginning of the annual publication, limited to a yearly issue, of a complete directory, including departments of work.

At the first board meeting in the autumn of 1893, the fact was emphasized by the president of the conspicuous part taken by club women in the general management and upon the various platforms of the congresses of the World's Fair. It was also stated that hereafter a special object of interest to all club women in connection with General Federation conventions would be the "club exhibit."

It was found that club women and others from all over the country spent

hours and even days in the study of the volumes and club groups collected and open to inspection.

Thousands of federated women visited the Exhibit, wrote their names and addresses in the Book of Records, and took penciled notes of the attractive features in club manuals that were new to them.

This seemed to show that a club exhibit was educational as well as interesting, and must be a feature of the future.

At this meeting the local committee for the second biennial in Philadelphia was named, and the outline of the programme discussed. The local committee consisted of the following ladies: Mrs. Edwin L. Hall, Mrs. J. B. Calahan, Jr., Mrs. A. W. Longstreth, Miss S. W. Jenney, Miss E. C. Stacey. For the Federation: Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown and Mrs. Mary E. Mumford.

The New Century Club, of Philadelphia, tendered to the General Federation the use of its club-house, 124 South Twelfth Street, for the business and social purposes of the convention, and here, on Wednesday, May 9th, at 9 A.M., the delegates met for the presentation of credentials, payment of biennial dues, and obtaining of delegates' badges.

At 10 A.M. the meeting was called to order by the president, who, after the invocation by Miss Mary Grew, introduced Mrs. Anna W. Longstreth, the president of the New Century Club, who made the address of welcome, responded to by the president of the General Federation. Mrs. Longstreth said, among other things: "We are glad and happy to show you our dear old Quaker City, with all its virtues and all its faults, and to show you our club-house, which we built with devotion, affection, and thankfulness. Such a gathering as this promises to be is useful in showing the earnestness with which women are taking hold of those things that make for righteousness, and will offer a valuable object-lesson to the world about us."

Mrs. Brown's response was most happy. She said: "If there was a fitness in holding our first biennial in Chicago, it is equally fitting that our second biennial should be held here. For if Chicago is numerically larger, Philadelphia is more historic; and her monumental buildings, her quiet, beautiful homes and renowned park, are not obscured by the growing glory of her ambitious sister at the West. We are especially delighted to find ourselves assembled in this beautiful club-house, inspired and made possible by generous women, whose architect was a woman, and that was completed by the women on whose invitation we are here assembled."

The report of the recording secretary gave the whole number of clubs in the Federation as 350; including four State Federations—Maine, Iowa, Massachusetts, and Michigan.

The corresponding secretary stated that, at the organization meeting in

New York, only sixty chartered clubs were enrolled. At the first biennial these had grown to 190; at the Council meeting in Chicago the list numbered 285, while at the date of the second biennial the number had become 355—an addition of 195 clubs in two years.

In addition to these, 100 clubs have come in through State organizations, bringing the total up to 450 clubs. Besides the new States represented, a third foreign country was announced in addition to England and India—South Australia.

Mrs. Julia Plato Harvey, vice-president of the Federation, and chairman of the department congress and Council meeting, made a verbal report of the proceedings; and Miss Floretta Vining, of Hull, Mass., assistant treasurer, presented the report of the treasurer, in Mrs. Cooper's absence. The total receipts for two years were \$2,024.94; the expenses, \$2,012.53; leaving a balance in the treasury of \$12.38.

The president's address called attention to the training that the club life is giving to women; the growth of State and smaller local federations, and the individual responsibility involved. At its close some routine business followed, and the convention adjourned to meet at 2.30 P.M.

The afternoon session was given to reports of State chairmen from California, Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, Iowa, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Maryland, Washington, D. C., and Michigan.

Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, State chairman for Michigan, made a short address, and Mrs. Loraine Immen, the report.

Colorado, Wyoming, and Montana were grouped in one report by Miss Julia Leavens.

Wednesday evening was devoted to a reception given by the New Century Club to the delegates and members of clubs from every part of the country.

On this occasion the whole of the new club-house, the home of the New Century Club, was thrown open, and the representatives of hundreds of clubs, North, East, South, and West, were able to see what the enterprise and good judgment of club women may accomplish.

The approach to the auditorium, or "drawing-room," is by a wide oaken staircase. The receiving party were stationed at the upper end of this room, in front of the stage, and consisted of Mrs. Longstreth, president of the New Century Club; Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, and Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin.

The women were beautifully gowned, and presented a striking appearance. The crush was fearful. The New Century Club numbered six hundred members, many of whom brought escorts. Added to these were the delegations in full force. Fortunately, seeing the "house," and occasional incur-

sions to the parlor and tea-rooms, where ices and lemonade were served, created a wider distribution than the drawing-room permitted, and not only saved the fine laces, but made the memory of the gracious hospitality a joy forever.

Thursday, May 10th, the session was called to order by the president, promptly at 10 A.M. The minutes of the previous day were then read by the assistant recording secretary, Dr. Harriet C. Hinds, and approved.

Nominations for a committee to report upon a ticket for the election of officers was the first order, and resulted as follows: Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, California; Mrs. Mary Gamble, Colorado; Mrs. Sarah Winthrop Smith, Connecticut; Mrs. H. B. Sperry, District of Columbia; Mrs. Charles Miller, Delaware; Miss Rosa Woodbury, Georgia; Mrs. J. N. Flower, Illinois; Mrs. Margaret D. Chislett, Indiana; Mrs. Jessie Mallory Thayer, Iowa; Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Kentucky; Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Maine; Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, Massachusetts; Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, Michigan; Mrs. Emanuel Cohen, Minnesota; Mrs. Mary E. Buckley, Missouri; Mrs. Eliza W. Peattie, Nebraska; Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, New Jersey; Mrs. Lillian C. Streeter, New Hampshire; Mrs. Fanny I. Helmuth, New York; Mrs. L. Emerson, Ohio; Mrs. Babcock, Pennsylvania; Miss Amelia S. Knight, Rhode Island; Mrs. Arnold May, Vermont; Mrs. Charles W. Lord, Maryland.

After the formation of this committee reports of State chairmen were resumed by Mrs. F. H. Hall, for New Jersey; Mrs. L. C. Streeter, for New Hampshire; Mrs. L. W. Bates, New Mexico; Mrs. Helen G. Ecob, New York; Miss M. J. Kumler, of Ohio, read for Miss Mary Davies Steele, of Ohio.

Other reports were made by Mrs. E. C. Stacy, for Pennsylvania; Mrs. Madison, for Rhode Island; Mrs. Philip N. Moore, for Missouri; Mrs. Laura Woodford, for Nebraska, and Mrs. E. Cohen, for Minnesota. After which, the meeting adjourned, to assemble in the afternoon for the discussion of the "Ideal Club." The subject for the afternoon was, "The Ideal Club and How to Attain It." The following were the divisions under which the discussion was conducted: Comparison of club methods; value; how obtained; literary standards in club work; originality; extemporary speaking; parliamentary law and business methods; profitable club studies; classes; inside work and outside lectures; benevolent and philanthropic work; large and small clubs; limitation of members; mixed clubs; best method of electing club officers; what should be done with the waiting list; club-houses; club dues; committees and committee work.

The speeches were limited to three minutes, and a large number of the delegates participated. Among them, Dr. H. S. Stevenson, Mrs. J. M. Flower, Mrs. S. M. Perkins, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. J. W. Chalmers, Mrs. Scribner, Mrs. Babcock, Mrs. May Wright Sewall, Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, and a Syrian lady, Madam Kurany.

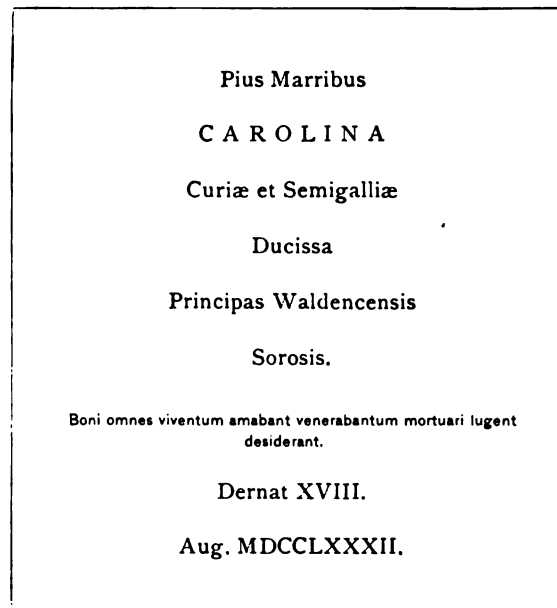
The contribution of Miss Mary Davies Steele to the discussion was read. Her two important points were that club speaking should be oral in reality, not merely in name. Secondly, that it should be an object to set a high literary standard, and cultivate a desire for sincere criticism rather than ill-judged praise.

At the close of the discussion the meeting adjourned, to come together for an evening session, at the Academy of Music, at 8 P.M.

The evening session was occupied by ten-minute addresses. The first one, by Miss May Rogers, ex-president of the Literary Club, of Dubuque, Iowa, was upon "The New Social Force," which was treated with breadth and vigor.

Miss Rogers's paper was, in substance, a résumé of the subjective conditions of woman in the past, and the broader life and new opportunities afforded her in an associative capacity.

Mrs. Helmuth, in her paper upon "Daughters of Sorosis," excited much interest by the description of an ancient tablet, discovered by herself, in the great church of the Cathedral at Lausanne. It bears the following inscription :



Carolina seems to have been the principal of an order of women in the sect of the Waldensians, devoted to works of education and charity very much after the fashion of the Sisters in the Catholic Church.

The Waldensians date back to the twelfth century, and represented societies both of men and women. They claimed direct descent from the apostolic bishops, and were the sufferers from continued persecution. Their preachers were both men and women, but there is no record in any history, and nothing existing that the writer had been able to discover, concerning the Order of Sorosis except this tablet, inscribed in old Latin, which she had with difficulty deciphered.

The outgrowths of the modern Sorosis were enumerated and described, the General Federation being that which was said to embody the highest aspiration and best results.

"Individual Responsibility," by Mrs. E. F. Hall, was the subject of a thoughtful paper, which contrasted the aggressive spirit with that gained by the training of faculty and the systematic study of affairs outside of personal lines. Loyalty, and increasing sense of personal responsibility, are the key-notes of improved social conditions.

"Women in Municipal Affairs," by Mrs. Anna M. Longstreth, was a résumé of tolerated abuses, and a general view of the field open to women in the domain of civic requirements. She said: "Let us study causes, search for remedies, and pledge time, thought, and effort to aid in bringing about that order, security, and permanence necessary to municipal prosperity."

The humorous note was struck by Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, in the "Democracy of Women's Clubs." She thought it was a great day for the world when Mr. J. R. Green, the historian, discovered that it is the moral standard that is set high, and not the amount of money or the cost of clothes.

"The women of the clubs should single out for honor, those who bear the burden of poverty. History has recorded the doings of potentates. It is time now to look after the interests in the life of the common people.

"The vital principle of the woman's club is, that it was based upon no artificial distinctions, but brought the every-day woman to the front, and discovered her gifts."

She closed with the following noble lines from "Democracy":

"I will make the continent indissoluble;
I will make the most splendid race the sun ever shone upon;
By the love of comrades,
By the live-long love of comrades."

Mrs. E. M. H. Merrill described "What the Woman demands of the Newspaper." What she gets is the man's idea of what she prefers; it is not what she wants.

She enumerated the fishball, the cup cake, the paper pattern, the bit of needlework, the charity records, and statistics of how a family may live upon

fifteen cents a day, as the sort of mental pabulum upon which the average editor considers a woman naturally subsists. Mrs. Merrill said that only women themselves could change his point of view.

Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods, president of the "Thought and Work Club," of Salem, Mass., gave an excellent paper on "Club Courtesies and Discourtesies." Every word of it had a special value. And the paper itself was subsequently repeated by request of several clubs.

"The Duties of Women's Clubs toward Mankind," by Mrs. F. H. Hall, presented the home side of club life. It relegated the paramount duty of the woman to the household, and described the importance of the influence issuing therefrom upon the race.

The adjournment, after an interesting evening, was to Friday morning, May 11th, at 10 o'clock.

The first part of the morning was given to further reports by State chairmen from Tennessee, Kansas, and Wisconsin. A comprehensive letter from Dr. E. Brainard-Ryder described the club interests of women as growing in India and Australia, though hampered by local conditions.

Dr. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, of Chicago, offered a resolution, seconded by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, and strongly supported by Mrs. Laura Wentworth Fowler, of Boston, that "Our moral standard is equally binding upon men and women; and that conduct which debars one from public and social life, should also debar the other." This was adopted by a rising vote.

Mrs. May Wright Sewall asked for a special committee upon the question of making the General Federation of Women's Clubs a member of the National Council.

The president stated that this question had been made a special order at the biennial of 1892, and by its vote had been referred to the Board of Directors. This body had decided that the General Federation of Women's Clubs, being a "sovereign and international organization, was ineligible to membership in the National Council."

Mrs. Alice B. Wiles, of Freeport, Ill., offered a resolution that the reports of State chairmen of correspondence be sent to the Board of Directors before each biennial meeting, to be collated, and afterwards published.

Mrs. Avery, of Ohio, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, and others dissented strongly from any proposition that would prevent the State reports from being read in biennial meeting. Mrs. J. C. Robinson, of Connecticut, moved that the resolution be referred to the Board of Directors, and it was so ordered.

The report of the nominating committee was then offered, and presented the following list of officers, which were voted upon and elected: President, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Chicago, Ill.; vice-president, Mrs. Mary E. Mum-



MRS. ELLEN M. HENROTIN,
PRESIDENT GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

ford, Philadelphia, Pa.; recording secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Louisville, Ky.; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, St. Louis, Mo.; treasurer, Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, San Francisco, Cal.; auditor, Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, Providence, R. I.

Advisory Board: Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, East Orange, N. J.; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Boston, Mass.; Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York; Mrs. Virginia F. Berryhill, Des Moines, Iowa; Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Portland, Me.; Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, Washington, D. C.; Miss Mary D. Steele, Dayton,



MRS. MARY E. MUMFORD,
Vice-President General Federation, 1894-1896

Ohio; Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon, Louisiana; Mrs. Annie McKinney, Knoxville, Tenn.

The officers and directors having been declared elected, on motion the meeting adjourned until 2.30 P.M.

The afternoon meeting was called to order by the retiring president, and the subject for discussion introduced was, "The Ideal Federation: How to Realize It."

The division of topics was suggested as follows:

The value of ideals; our phenomenal growth; its advantages and disadvantages; how the Federation may become more useful to the clubs; what to be its aims and efforts; to be both liberal and conservative; wide range of club study and work; plans for the future; how to stimulate higher and progressive work; relations to clubs in small places; clubs for country districts; clubs for young women; clubs for working-women; mixed clubs;

may they federate? State Federations and their relations to the General Federation; extension into foreign lands; conduct of biennials and other large club gatherings.

Among the contributors to this discussion were Mrs. Frye, of the Portland Literary Union, Me.; Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, of the North Shore Club, Lynn, Mass.; Mrs. Dunn, of the Woman's Club of Jamaica, L. I.; Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, of Massachusetts; Mrs. H. R. Shattuck; Mrs. Wade, of Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, of New York; Mrs. Marble, of Washington, D. C., and Miss Mary Davies Steele, of Dayton, Ohio.

Miss Steele was represented by a letter full of valuable suggestion. She said: "Why not consider our present useful and delightful clubs of women as not an end in themselves, but a serious and acknowledged preparation for an ideal association of both sexes for intellectual and moral improvement? Next, I should like a federated effort to draw city and rural neighborhoods together. Chairmen of State correspondence should endeavor to organize country clubs in every direction, women in suburbs or farms needing coöperative effort more than women in towns.

"As to the General Federation, I wish to ask if the time has not come when one day might be set apart for meeting in sections to discuss the particular subjects of study followed by the various groups of federated clubs. Clubs interested in the study of literature, economics, or parliamentary law would like to draw nearer together than is possible in a large body. The 'ideal federation' is composed of predominating literary and educational clubs, and should not identify itself with distinctively political or reform organizations.

"Short, concise reports are valuable time-savers. Five minutes lost in an assemblage of fifty persons means the loss of four hours."

Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson read a letter from Jamaica, L. I., upon "How the Federation may Become More Useful to Local Clubs," and followed it with remarks upon the value of readiness in "speaking upon one's feet."

A letter was read from W. J. Harris, commissioner of the Bureau of Education, Washington, D. C. He said: "I do not know of any instrumentality for the extension of schools and colleges to be compared with your institution of Federated Clubs."

Before adjourning, resolutions of thanks were offered to the officers and



MRS. C. F. BARNES,
Recording Secretary, G. F. W. C.,
1894-1898

members of the New Century Club of Philadelphia for hospitality, and to the press for courteous treatment. These resolutions were adopted by a rising vote.

The newly elected Board of Officers was then invited by the president to sit upon the platform at the evening meeting at the Academy of Music, after which the meeting adjourned until 8 P.M.

Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown called the meeting to order at the Academy of Music, and the exercises were opened by an address from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe upon the "Past, Present, and Future of Women's Clubs." She said, in part: "What did the club life give me? Understanding of my own sex: faith in its moral and intellectual strength. Like so many others, I saw the cruel wrongs and vexed problems of our social life, but I did not know that hidden away in its own midst was a reserved force destined to give precious aid in the righting of wrongs, and in the solutions of discords. In the women's clubs I found the immense power which sympathy exercises in bringing out the best aspirations of the woman nature."

"To guard against dangers, we must do our utmost to uphold and keep in view the high object which has, in the first instance, called us together; and let this be no mere party catch-word or cry, as East against West or North against South. We can afford to meet as citizens of one common country, and to love and serve the whole as one."

Mrs. Benjamin F. Taylor, of Cleveland, Ohio, followed in a paper upon "Club Training." She said, among other things: "We are not the independent creatures we sometimes think we are; the very air we breathe is charged from the brain laboratories of others, and our own thoughts are influencing in like degree the feelings of our neighbors. No one man—even though his genius was of the rarest—ever achieved, unaided, any great work. So this federation is but the binding together of many lines for greater influence and added strength."



MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE,
Corresponding Secretary, G. F. W. C.,
1894-1898

"What is our Shibboleth?" by Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, was a striking and philosophic study of the interrelation of mental and spiritual forces. She closed with the following words:

"Shall wisdom stand alone? She is cold—she is lifeless. But wisdom and love—that dual power which has its prototypes in nature, whose

union is light and life—wisdom and love—shall we be known by that shibboleth?"

Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin's paper was a fine résumé of what the Auxiliary Congresses at the World's Fair accomplished for women. She gave the number of speakers in the congresses as 5,977, of which 1,447 were women.

The number of congresses were 210, held under twenty different departments. In the congress of representative women 503 women were upon the programme, and in the department congresses following, 944 women spoke in the different sessions, and upon

a perfect equality with men, both as specialists and as orators. "The congresses of 1893," she said, "were a revelation as to the fitness of woman to take her part in the new order. If we were now to add one more force to present aggressive and competitive forces, then the struggle is not worth the strain, but woman must so enter the 'new order' that the world can foresee the time when life can be gracious, not altogether aggressive; when art and utility can make a perfect marriage and realize that indifference and hate are transitory, that only active, steadfast fellowship and loyal coöperation in a good cause are strong and eternal."

The next paper, "Reciprocity between Clubs," was specially noteworthy as forming the basis for a reciprocity committee, and for a large work, which has since been accomplished in various ways among the clubs, based upon the "reciprocity idea." The author, Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard Thompson, of Grand Rapids, Mich., presented it in a brilliant, epigrammatic style, which at once struck the imagination of her hearers.

Her plea was for a "reciprocity bureau," which would serve as a medium of exchange between the clubs, and would be an incentive to the production of good literary work, besides stimulating quick recognition.



MRS. SARAH B. COOPER,
Treasurer G. F. W. C., 1892-1896

Mrs. Osgood, of Maine, gave a paper on "One Woman," grouping the qualities and possibilities of an ideal womanhood in the "Eternal Womanly."

A paper by Miss Louise Stockton on "The Lecture Habit" was read by Mrs. Johnson of the New Century Club of Philadelphia, and "Archæology in Women's Clubs," by Mrs. H. H. Boyce, of Boston, ex-president of the Ruskin Art Club of Los Angeles.

At the close of the papers, Mrs. C. E. Brown introduced Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin as the newly elected president of the General Federation, remarking "that she was not retiring from its work or her interest in its prosperity."

Mrs. Henrotin, upon taking the chair, requested the audience to give the Chautauqua salute to the retiring president.

Mrs. Henrotin's brief address was as follows:

"In a presiding officer a policy is a thing always a luxury, sometimes a perilous one; but as every new management must embody a distinctive life, I will briefly outline a few of my thoughts in regard to the place and the mission of the federation.

"Two years ago one of our ominous questions was whether or not the State federations would be antagonistic to the General Federation. While we were anxiously debating the possibilities and probabilities, organized forces were working out the issue for themselves, and to-day, in Massachusetts, Maine, and Iowa, we have local organizations, adding immeasurably to the strength of the larger one, to which they are allied. The impulse which has led to local centralization has been spontaneous and therefore points the lines of natural growth. The far West and the far South need a stronger stimulus than the biennial, that only the rare, privileged delegate can attend. Every permanent inspiration must be born from *within*. This it is which will make the cumulative momentum of the ideal federated force. The larger will give to the smaller, breadth; the smaller to the larger, intensity.

"Other organizations of women—of which we have so many—represent each a single cause; the federation represents the sum and the soul of all causes. The movement of the federated women crystallizes to-day the highest ideals of American possibilities. We have men's organizations on all lines of individual needs—educational, literary, and commercial—but we have had no large organization of women whose interests were many-sided and united.

"The realization of the ideal in our club life, as in our home life, will be found in embodying the principles of which the federation is the symbol—the highest personality of the individual to give unity, the freest coöperation to give diversity; in unity and diversity, combined, the perfected whole. Give me your wisdom; I will give you my love."

The closing note of the second biennial was struck by the New Century Club of Wilmington, Del., in a cordial invitation to delegates to visit their new club-house upon Delaware Avenue, Wilmington. A large number responded, greatly enjoying an inspection of the beautiful club-house and the friendly hospitality of the club members.

A NEW DEPARTURE

The advent of Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin as the president of the General Federation, began the second stage in the history of the federation, the third in the history of the club movement.

Up to this time the General Federation had consisted mainly of an increasing aggregation of local clubs. The State federation idea had been at first viewed with distrust and something of fear, lest it should impair the growth and integrity of the general body.

This vague sentiment had, however, already given place to at least acceptance of the local federation as an inevitable consequence of the growth of the General Federation and the rapid multiplication of clubs all over the land. Four State federations had already been formed; others were in process of formation; and it was seen to be only a question of time when every State in the Union that contained a sufficient number of clubs would be federated within its own borders.

In addition to the State federations, city and local unions had been formed, with the object of bringing neighborhood clubs into closer relations with each other; and the question now was, how to foster, not only the growth of clubs, but to preserve and render binding the relations between the groups of clubs and the general body.

To this work Mrs. Henrotin addressed herself in a broad and liberal spirit, which excited confidence, and proclaimed her a woman of statesmanlike qualities, capable of dealing with large subjects from the large point of view.

Her first work was to address the following letter to the State chairmen of correspondence and presidents of clubs:

"Dear Madam: The question of forming State federations is constantly before me, and every mail brings me letters from members of the different States as to how they can form State federations.

"The constant demand also from cities for instructions regarding the organization of city federations leads me to believe that the State chairmen should be provided with some literature, models of constitutions, etc., of State federations, which may be useful to them in preparing their own constitution. By addressing Mrs. James G. Berryhill, president of Iowa State Federation, Des Moines, Iowa, or Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, president of Maine Federation,

48 Winter Street, Portland, Me., copies may be obtained of the constitution of these two State federations as guides. It is not necessary to say that the General Federation should not be lost sight of in forming the State federation, as the General Federation is the unit of organization, and through its existence State federations are made possible.

"I think it very unadvisable that any chairman of State correspondence should be the president of the State federation. She should be in all cases the medium through which the General Federation expresses itself to the State, and her chief duty is to represent the interests of the General Federation.

"The policy of State federation can be more liberal than that of the General, as it is organized for local aims and local interests, and in the question of admitting women's associations to membership, a State federation must be guided entirely by the vote of the presidents of clubs.

"Many city federations are being formed along practical lines of work, but their connection with the General Federation may come through the State or by joining the General Federation as a city federation.

"In the matter of city federation the State chairman should be very careful to have as little as possible to do beyond securing the interests of the General Federation, and inducing the city federation to be represented either in the State or General Federation.

"The city federations are formed emphatically for limited communities; their policy should be liberal, and, above all, the annual dues should be low. In my opinion the city federations should confine themselves as strictly as possible to the interests of their own city."

The first work of the corresponding secretary was that of obtaining the data necessary for the publication of the complete annual directory, which, up to April, 1894, had been part of the work of the *Cycle*. The determination to add to the lists of clubs and officers the classified work of the clubs, and their increasing numbers, made it necessary to confine the directory to a yearly issue from official sources; and the work was relegated into the hands of Mrs. Eva Perry Moore, the corresponding secretary.

The first important meeting of the Advisory Board under the new administration was at St. Louis, beginning October 15th, and remained in session three days.

The items of business, as presented by the president for consideration, were:

1. State and city federation.
2. Duties of State chairmen of correspondence.
3. Formation of new clubs.
4. Foreign correspondence.
5. Conduct of biennial of 1896.
6. Miscellaneous business.

There were present: President, Mrs. Henrotin; vice-president, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford; recording secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore; treasurer, Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper; auditor, Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer; and Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Mrs. James G. Berryhill, Mrs. Lucie E. Blount, and Mrs. Samuel McKinney, of the directory.

The recording secretary reported indexing the records of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and was authorized to collect in permanent form the addresses made before the federation in 1890, the congress in 1893, and the biennials of 1892 and 1894.

The treasurer's report, showing a balance of \$2,206.27, on deposit in the Bank of California and in the San Francisco Savings Union, was examined and found correct by the auditor.

The president addressed the board upon the subject, "State and City Federation," emphasizing the successful organizations in Maine, Iowa, Massachusetts, and Kentucky; the recent preliminary organizations in Michigan; the calls for organization in New York, New Jersey, and Illinois; the benefits gained from State federations, and the powerful influence of city federations.

The entire board took part in the discussion, at the close of which the following motion was passed unanimously:

"That this board approve the formation of auxiliary State federations, and think it advisable that each such organization cover the entire State."

The corresponding secretary read letters from members of the board not present and from chairmen of State correspondence.

Inquiries as to specific form of duties were made by many State chairmen; and the following motion was the result of the discussion upon this subject:

"That a committee of three be appointed by the chair to formulate the duties of State chairmen of correspondence, and prepare simple rules to assist new clubs in organizing."

Mrs. Lucie E. Blount, Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, Mrs. Esther Allen Jobs were the committee appointed for this purpose; several appointments of State chairmen were made in place of others resigned; and the president reported correspondence with clubs in India and Australia.

Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown was made chairman of Committee on Foreign Correspondence. In response to an invitation from the Woman's Department of the Atlanta Cotton Exposition, it was decided to accept the invitation for a "Federation" gathering in November at Atlanta, and that a meeting of the Board of Directors be called during the same week, to which State chairmen of correspondence should be invited.

A letter from Mrs. Croly, of the Board of Directors, proposed that a

paper should be prepared, embodying the beginnings of the General Federation and its history up to date, to be presented at the next biennial gathering, for the information of new clubs.

This proposition was considered favorably. Mrs. Brown was authorized to write the history in book form, and two hundred dollars were assigned her for the work.

Invitations for the biennial of 1896 had been received from the Ossoli Circle, Knoxville, Tenn.; the Woman's Club, New Orleans, La.; the Woman's Club, Buffalo, N. Y.; the Woman's Club, Pittsburg, Pa.; Nineteenth Century Club, Memphis, Tenn.; the Woman's Club, Louisville, Ky.

The invitation from the Woman's Club of Louisville was accepted, and on motion of Mrs. J. G. Berryhill, the following committee was appointed to coöperate with a committee from the Woman's Club of Louisville for the biennial of 1896:

Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, of Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Philip N. Moore, of St. Louis; Mrs. Samuel McKinney, of Knoxville, Tenn.

The president then presented her plan of dividing the work of the third biennial into sections, subdivided into departments; the morning sessions to be devoted first to business, and secondly to reports of State chairmen of correspondence. Section work to be presented under the following heads:

First.—Literature, including art, science, and philosophy. Second.—Social economics, including municipal and legislative work, criminal and dependent children, child labor, and factory inspection. Third.—Philanthropy, including psychology, sociology, and charitable institutions. Fourth.—Home, including social life, physical culture, correct dress, and the like. Fifth.—Education, including kindergarten, public schools, higher education, normal schools, school boards, school superintendents, etc. Sixth.—Business women, including teachers, stenographers, insurance agents, bankers, real estate, and stock companies in women's clubs.

The section meetings to be simultaneous, each conducted by a committee of three; the chairman to be appointed by the board, she to select two others. Each committee to select one speaker for the evening sessions.

The afternoons of the first and second days to be devoted to leisure and social features; the afternoon of the third day to the election of officers and directors.

The first evening to be given to the Woman's Club of Louisville for a reception of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; the second and third evenings under the direction of the committee from the board.

On motion of Mrs. Philip N. Moore, the president's plan was adopted as a whole.

A committee of three was appointed by the board to revise the constitu-

tion and by-laws, consisting of the following members of that body: Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, of Rhode Island; Mrs. E. H. Osgood, of Maine; and Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, of New Jersey. The instructions were to report at the next biennial meeting.

It was resolved that, in view of the large number of States federated, and to be federated, the classification of States and the seating of delegates by States, under State banners, be arranged for at the third biennial; and that the committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs be instructed to coöperate with the Committee of Arrangements from the Woman's Club of Louisville in seating delegates by States and in furnishing marshals.

The hospitality of the Wednesday Club of St. Louis, throughout the days devoted to the sessions of the board, was recognized by a cordial vote of thanks, sent through the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, of the Wednesday Club of St. Louis.

The evenings had been devoted to receptions, where club-women, with their husbands, warmly greeted the board, and where more than one voiced the sentiment of the "Ideal Club," the club for men and women.

Business concluded, the Board of Directors adjourned, to meet at the call of the president in Atlanta, November, 1895.

STATE FEDERATION

The letters from State chairmen of correspondence, presented at the board meeting in St. Louis, in reply to letters of inquiry from the president, were of great importance in deciding the immediate question of State federation.

These letters from such well-known club-women as Mrs. Laura E. Scammon of Missouri, Mrs. Lillian C. Streeter of New Hampshire, Mrs. E. N. Frye of Maine, Miss Mary D. Steele of Ohio, Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes of Washington, Mrs. C. D. Buchwalter of Ohio, Mrs. Frances A. Goodale of New York, Mrs. Wrenshall of Maryland, Mrs. Alice Ives Breed of Massachusetts, and Mrs. H. H. Robinson of Malden, Mass., were almost uniform in their tenor, not only of encouragement, but of the inevitable tendency of the federation movement to localize in States and neighborhoods.

The danger was recognized of too many subdivisions and sectional groups; but this danger, it was generally hoped, would be obviated by the cultivation of the spirit of the larger unity and of loyalty to the common centre of union.

Mrs. Henrotin expressed the general sentiment in her summing up:

"The usefulness of the General Federation is increased, and not dimin-

ished, by the growth of the State federations. The General and the State are types of this great government; 'unity in diversity' is the keynote of modern civilization. In the State federations are vested State rights, and in the General the power which holds these various and varying interests together. All the State federations have joined the General Federation; so again is the trinity of interests exemplified—the individual club, the State federation, and the General Federation."

The report of the committee appointed at St. Louis to formulate the duties of State chairmen, and suggest rules to assist new clubs in organizing, was printed and distributed during 1895.

The report embodied suggestions to the State chairman for her own work, and also her duties in relation to young clubs and neighborhoods in which no club existed.

The chairman, it was stated, should, above all, in the formation of new clubs, keep in mind the interest of the General Federation, referring all questions to the president or secretary of the State federation.

Perhaps the most important work initiated during the first year of Mrs. Henrotin's administration was the inquiry into the extent and value of the "civic" movement in clubs, and in what way it was likely to affect the woman's relation to the State. A symposium on the subject, published in the *Cycle* in April, 1895, contained the following questions from the department of social economics:

"What importance do you attach to the study of civics and social economics in women's clubs?"

"Would you have clubs limited to study and discussion of these subjects, or would you advise that they endeavor, by both 'education and active coöperation, to promote a higher public spirit and a better social order'?"

Mrs. Henrotin said, in her comments on these questions:

"Departments of civics and social economics should be a part of all club work and study classes. The clubs which have been organized within the last two years differ from those at first formed in this: the membership of the new clubs is very large; some are over a hundred, and several have started with three or four hundred and a waiting list. Such clubs naturally divide up into departments, and at once begin municipal or other work. The State federations, which are being so rapidly inaugurated, will each adopt one branch of practical work. The social life of the place, whether city or country, should be enlarged and the tone elevated, for the woman's club is the most democratic of institutions, and therefore always a strong social factor."

Mrs. Mary E. Mumford wrote: "When the General Federation of Women's Clubs was first organized it was found that clubs in all parts of the country (though primarily intended for literary culture) had extended their studies to

civic affairs. Many of them had also begun to concern themselves with the welfare of the communities to which they belonged, and the very first delegates' reports showed that practical results were already in evidence.

"The attention of the women seems to have been turned first toward the needs of children, and in many towns they brought to lagging school boards a knowledge of the newer thought in education. They advocated manual training (tool-work for boys, sewing and cooking for girls), while their encouragement of kindergartens gave a valuable impulse to that foundation principle of child training.

"Such important work was not begun to be lightly laid aside. The great movement toward municipal house-cleaning and house-keeping is to find a steady propelling force in the woman's club."

Mrs. Lucy L. Flower, a trustee of the Chicago University, believed that women are quite as much interested in municipal problems as any man can be, once their attention is called to them. But she advised "education *first*, then active coöperation. Let the knowledge acquired be brought into play first in the education of children. Let the mother understand these questions, then train her child to comprehend the importance of his actions, his duty to his government and to his neighbors. Make him realize he has civic duties he should no more neglect than his business affairs. When every man does his public duty, the woman need only hold up his hands. The most hopeful sign of the times to me, is the attention now given to sociology in universities, schools, and clubs."

Mrs. T. H. Moore, of Denver, Colo., wrote :

"I consider a study of history philosophically of first importance, for therein we learn the gradual unfolding of civilization until we reach our present condition. When we have found ourselves, our next study should be civics followed by social economics, because a knowledge of these fits us for citizenship, and enables us in some degree to solve the many vexed social questions. Particularly is this so in my own State, where women are close students of the basic principles of our Government, and where the giving of the ballot has been productive of a desire for information regarding the philosophy of governmental life."

These opinions were reinforced by many others of practically the same import.

The first woman's club of Florida (Green Cove Springs) was found to have been organized especially with reference to the improvement of the village and its surroundings ; and all the clubs in the State, then recently formed into a State federation, were organized with this civic work as their primary object.

In February, 1895, a great loss to the General Federation was experienced in the sudden and totally unexpected death of Mrs. Charlotte Emer-

son Brown. Mrs. Brown's service to the organization in its infancy, and her unremitting attention to its interests, had aided largely in the building up of the vast and widespread aggregation of clubs which constituted the force of the General Federation movement. Her influence was unbounded, and her loss deeply felt by every one who had come within the radius of her usefulness. In the absence of Mrs. Mumford, vice-president of the General Federation, Mrs. Croly, of the board of directors, New York, was assigned to represent the General Federation at the funeral, which took place in Orange, N. J., and was attended by every mark of profoundest sorrow and respect.

Mrs. Henrotin appointed a committee, consisting of Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, and Mrs. Philip N. Moore, to draw up the resolutions of sympathy from the General Federation of Women's Clubs; and also wrote a memorial full of high appreciation of Mrs. Brown's qualities as woman and officer. She said in part:

"Her policy as president of the Federation was both constructive and conservative. She gave to each club applying for membership her immediate and personal attention, and the rapid growth of the Federation was due to this power of conciliation which brought into her work with the clubs a personal feeling. She not only advocated a cause, but stood

for the cordial and social relations."



MRS. BROWN'S LIBRARY

From the Woman's Club of Orange, and also from the clubs of every part of the country, came expressions of deepest regret and sense of loss. All of which, with the president's memorial, were subsequently published in the *Cycle*, and afterward in book form, and presented to the Rev. William B. Brown, the husband of the deceased ex-president,

who had been closely associated with and sympathetic in her work.

In December, 1894, the complete list of clubs, federations, and State unions affiliated with the General Federation, as published in the *Cycle* of that date, represented three hundred and thirty-six States, six of which were federated. The States federated were: Illinois, Iowa, Kentucky, Maine, Ohio, Rhode Island; and one city union, the Woman's Literary Union, Portland, Maine.

From this time the history of the General Federation became less an increasing aggregation of local clubs and more a federation of States; the work receiving direction and impetus from the active coöperation of the presidential chief of the General Federation, and her presence at the formation of nearly every State organization.

By November, 1894, not in time to be included in the preceding list, New Jersey, New York, Michigan, and Nebraska were organized; and Utah and Massachusetts, previously federated, came into the general body.

Between December and February twenty local clubs and four State federations were added to the General Federation list, showing that the federation of States interfered little with the increase of local clubs in the general body.

In the early part of 1895 the District of Columbia joined the General Federation as an organized body, and several other States prepared to come into line.

During 1895 the reports of the Committee on Reciprocity and Correspondence, which included social studies, American history, and English literature, were submitted and published, as embodying the best outlines for work in these directions obtained from the clubs. This report was the starting point of the system of reciprocity, or exchange between clubs, of outlines for study work and specialized papers, which are now a valuable medium of interchange and intercourse, not only between local clubs but also between federated States.

THE MEETING OF THE COUNCIL AT ATLANTA

The announcement that the Council of the General Federation of Women's Clubs would meet in Atlanta in November, that the meeting would be for two days, and an opportunity afforded of seeing the progress, material and intellectual, made by the Southern States during the last quarter of this wonder-working century, brought together a larger number of club leaders from different parts of the country than were ever gathered on a similar occasion. Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, Iowa, Illinois, Nebraska, and other distant States were represented, as well as the near-by ones of Tennessee, Kentucky, Missouri, and Arkansas.

The Committee of Arrangements for the congress of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at Atlanta consisted of Mrs. Samuel McKinney, Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, and Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon, of the Board of Directors. The local committee from the Georgia Woman's Press Club and the Georgia Sorosis were Miss Leonora Beck, Miss Rosa Woodberry, and Mrs. Eugene B. Heard.

Atlanta had not been considered a "club" town from the woman's point of view. In this respect it was behind some smaller towns of the State, notably Elberton, which possessed a Georgia Sorosis of many years' standing, grown into a power in a somewhat isolated neighborhood. The nearest approach to a woman's club in Atlanta was a history class, formed in 1884, under a leader, but without club organization.

The Council of the General Federation met in response to an invitation from the Woman's Department of the Cotton States and International Exhibition, representing the General Federation in the department congresses of the Woman's Auxiliary.

The board was represented by the president, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin; vice-president, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford; recording secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore; directors, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. J. C. Croly, Mrs. James G. Berryhill, Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Mrs. Samuel McKinney, Mrs. Lucie E. Blount, Mrs. Sarah Johnson.

The programme of the first session included an address by Mrs. Lulu M. Gordon; "A Welcome to the South," by Mrs. Samuel McKinney, and response by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin. The succeeding papers were a "History of the Club Movement," by Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer; "Southern Women in Organized Work," by Mrs. Joseph Thompson, the president of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Exposition; "The Woman's Club, a Supplement to the Home," by Mrs. Alice Ives Breed; "The Woman's Club, a Social Factor," by Mrs. Lindon Bates; "Advantages of Club Life for Southern Women," by Miss Katherine Nobles, and "Unity in Diversity," by Mrs. T. French.

The congress was called to order by Mrs. Albert H. Cox, in the absence of Mrs. Lulu M. Gordon, representative-at-large of the Woman's Department of the Atlanta Exposition.

Mrs. Gordon's "Address of Welcome" was presented by Miss Mary L. Huntley, of Atlanta. After Mrs. McKinney's "Welcome to the South," the president of the Ossoli Circle, of Knoxville, Tenn., tendered Mrs. Henrotin the use of a handsomely carved oak chair during the sessions of the congress.

Rising to accept the chair, Mrs. Henrotin was presented with a gavel belonging to the Georgia Sorosis, bearing this inscription:

"A piece of wood from the battlefield of Chickamauga. Presented by the Atlanta Artillery, through Governor Northern, 1895."

Mrs. Heard, president of the Georgia Sorosis, said: "It was shot into by both armies in the effort to dissolve the union of a great nation. Now it represents 'Unity in Diversity,' and it is most appropriate it should be used on this occasion. The use of this gavel to-day adds another item of interest to its history, and Georgia Sorosis is much honored having it used by the distinguished and beloved president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs."

In accepting the use of both gavel and chair, Mrs. Henrotin responded feelingly, adding that "Mrs. Potter Palmer once said, 'the Government sent out a flashlight and discovered woman.' The Government has continued to send out flashlights, and has discovered the Southern woman. The General Federation of Women's Clubs comes to the South for the first time in acceptance of the cordial invitation of the president of the Woman's Department of this beautiful exposition. Its mission is peace. It stands for right thinking and better living. It is woman's protest against the material things of this world. It is an American movement. It is democratic. It is pledged to no specialties. It studies the problems of to-day to make a better to-morrow."

Mrs. Henrotin then introduced the following State chairmen of correspondence, who brought greetings from their States: Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, of Massachusetts; Mrs. Clara P. Bourland, of Illinois; Miss Rosa Woodberry, of Georgia; Mrs. B. C. Buchwalter, of Ohio, and Mrs. Belknap Howe, of Iowa.

Mrs. Etta H. Osgood gave, as a greeting from the Maine pines to the Georgia rose, a poem. Mrs. Mumford brought the "silent Quaker" greeting, adding that "the Southern woman needs not the least encouragement in the world. Her ability in organization is shown in this exposition."

Mrs. Clymer's paper upon the "History of the Woman's Club Movement" closed the addresses.

The afternoon session was honored by the presence of Mrs. Thompson, president of the Woman's Department of the Cotton States Exposition. She was introduced by Mrs. Henrotin, and offered the use of the Federation chair for the afternoon.

The programme was a symposium on women's clubs. Before calling for the speakers, the floor was given to Mrs. Margaret Yardley, of New Jersey; Mrs. Lillian Streeter, of New Hampshire; Mrs. Charles Morris, of Wisconsin; Mrs. Croly, of New York; Mrs. Kendrick, of Rhode Island; Mrs. Beard, of Tennessee; Mrs. Jere. R. Morton, of Kentucky, for words of welcome from the State federations.

"The Literary Club" was the subject of a charming paper by Mrs. Lindon W. Bates.

Mrs. Lillian Streeter talked at length upon "The Department Club." She thought it a "tremendous subject to grapple with. Literary clubs made the department work possible."

Department work was the highest phase—the latest development of club work. Every woman can find her place in department work. Woman is demanding specific work from women's clubs. She is shaping public opinion. Every phase of work is possible by this division into departments.

Mrs. Hughes, of the Wednesday Club of St. Louis, spoke of the department work in that club.

Mrs. Bonsland wished to speak of the departments in the Woman's Club of Chicago, but at the request of the president told of the club-house in Peoria, built by a joint stock company.

Mrs. Estelle Merrill, of Cantabrigia, Cambridge, spoke of department work "being a necessity in their club of 630 members."

"The members were preëminently of Cantabrigia first—of their department second. The department club is the only club."

Mrs. Greer, of the Nineteenth Century Club of Memphis, described the six departments of that club.

The discussion that followed Miss Long's paper on the "Art Club" was equally as instructive.

Mrs. Florence Howe Hall thought "we should be careful not to put all the chromos in the nurseries. An important question was, Where *should* they and the condemned vases be put?"

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, introduced by Mrs. Henrotin, as "glorified by long years of service to women and humanity," read her paper, "The Benefits of State Federation."

The discussion was led by Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, of Iowa, who acknowledged Mrs. Howe as the inspiration of their organization.

Mrs. Osgood spoke of the "big sister of all the State federations—Maine—the first State to organize with her bureau of information, her reciprocity bureau, and her rousing interest in the public school system."

Mrs. Mumford's talk on "Civic Clubs" was not reduced to writing.

Briefly, she said: "The literary clubs were the first clubs, but were not enough for all women. They were formed to meet the defects of elder women.

"College-bred women were well furnished with literature, and demanded something more. Hence civic clubs.

"To answer: What is a civic club?

"The woman who plants a tree and cleans the street in front of her door is a civic club of one.

"The woman who follows her child to school and demands sanitary conditions in the school-house, mental discipline and moral culture, is a civic club of one. When from the home and the school she begins to study the administration of all public charity and the principle of government, she is still a civic club of one.

"A number of such women banded together make a civic club."

She illustrated her thought with the example of the Civic Club of Philadelphia, with its four departments:

I. Municipal Government.

Relation of City Government to Citizens.

II. Social Science.

Discussion of Charities from a Sociological Standpoint.

III. Art. What will beautify a city? Need of parks being secured when planning a town.

IV. Education.

Mrs. Ellen Dietz Clymer led the discussion, telling of the civic clubs in New York. The women organized political equality clubs to study—

I. The Science of Government.

II. The Franchises of Women.

III. The Political Interests of Women.

Mrs. Croly told of a civic club in Goshen one hundred years ago. Membership, *one woman*.

Mrs. Yardley's paper on the "Working Girls' Clubs" was brief, but interested her audience.

Mrs. Henrotin closed the congress, thanking the Committee of Arrangements and the president of the Woman's Department of the Cotton States Exhibition.

Touching a vase of American Beauties, sent by Mrs. Joseph Thompson, she said: "She has literally thrown roses at us each day—the typical rose of the typical women—embodying, as it does, nature and culture, beauty and grace. We have come, not with fife and drum, but with tender greetings upon our lips. In going back to our homes we shall carry with us pleasant memories of Atlanta and the South, and shall hope to see you all again."

Perhaps of all the papers given at the congress that of Mrs. Lindon W. Bates upon the office of literature was the most valuable. The great element of literature, she said, is power, and the use of literature to create and preserve idealities. This use made the choice of high themes necessary.

The president of the General Federation, and the representatives present in Atlanta, were the recipients of many courtesies from the ladies of the board of the Woman's Auxiliary.

Mrs. Joseph Thompson, the president, gave a beautiful luncheon at her charming home, "Brookwood Farm." Mrs. John Inman gave a reception; and Miss Ella M. Powell, chairman of Committee on Entertainment, a reception in the Women's Building, which tested its capacity and was distinguished by brilliant musical features.

The Board of Directors of the General Federation of Women's Clubs closed their session by a complimentary dinner to Mrs. Henrotin and Mrs. Thompson at the Piedmont club-house in Piedmont Park.

The club exhibit at Atlanta was an interesting feature of the Woman's Department of the Exposition.

After adjournment, the Council was entertained by the Press Club of Atlanta in the New York parlor of the Women's building.

Saturday morning, at nine o'clock, the State chairmen of correspondence and presidents of State federations met the Board of Directors to hear the report of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution and to offer suggestions for further consideration. Following the discussion, the doors were opened for all the club women and others interested in a parliamentary drill, given by Mrs. Etta H. Osgood.

Stimulated by the presence of the Council of the General Federation, a meeting of a number of the ladies of Atlanta was called by Mrs. W. T. Lowe, at her home on Peachtree Street, November 4th, to consider the advisability of forming a woman's club of an active, all-around character.

Mrs. Croly, of the Advisory Board, and Mrs. E. M. H. Merrill, of Cantabrigia Club, Cambridge, Mass., were present, and addressed the meeting, which was the starting point of the work which resulted in the Woman's Club of Atlanta, and many other clubs now grouped in the Georgia State Federation under the energetic leadership of the founder, Mrs. William T. Lowe.

The history of the General Federation from this point up to the biennial of 1896 is contained in the history of State organizations founded during 1895 and 1896.

The president spent the year in an almost uninterrupted progress through the different States, taking long journeys and suffering all the fatigue and discomfort, in order to acquire a general knowledge of the conditions in the different federated States; and partly yielding to the pressure of the leaders in State organization, who felt that their beginnings lacked an essential element if unsupported by the gracious presence and kindly words of encouragement of the honored leader.

The preparations for the third biennial were in the meantime proceeding actively. Louisville was intensely interested in the great gathering which was to test its spaces and its hospitality.

Mrs. Henrotin's plan of sections and divisions had met with enthusiastic approval. The assembling of delegates under their several States and banners was anticipated as adding a picturesque element to a concourse of broad-minded and intelligent women.

A club exhibit, similar to the one made for the Columbian Exhibition, had been adopted as a desirable feature for Louisville; and the preparation of photographs of club-houses, club interiors, and influential representatives, also calendars and year-books, had occupied attention in the local clubs, generally under the direction of a Federation secretary or committee found necessary to attend to this and other General Federation business.

The local committee in concert with the committee of the General Federation previously named were: Mrs. James A. Leech, of Louisville; Mrs. George C. Avery, of Louisville; Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Miss Mary Lafon, Miss H. Quigley, Mrs. C. J. F. Allen, Mrs. Charles Pettet, Mrs. C. F. Smith, Miss L. Norton, Mrs. Charles G. Davison, Miss Annie B. Jones, Mrs. Alexander P. Humphry, Mrs. C. B. Robinson, Mrs. Ira S. Barnett, Mrs. William R. Belknap, Miss Fanny Craig, Miss Margaret Anderson, Mrs. Andrew Cowan, Mrs. Richard C. Graves, of Memphis, and Mrs. William Lee Huse, of St. Louis.

The press bureau consisted of Miss Mary Rogers Clay, Mrs. J. W. Bowser, and Mrs. John B. Lewis.

The committees and sections were represented in finance by Mrs. Edward Longstreth, Philadelphia; literature, Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, New Jersey; education, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Philadelphia; social economics, Mrs. Martha Fischel, of St. Louis; philanthropy, Mrs. J. F. Flower, Chicago; home, Mrs. J. V. Cheney, San Francisco; the standing committees of reciprocity and correspondence by Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard Thompson, of Grand Rapids, and revision of constitution and by-laws by Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, of Rhode Island.

THE THIRD BIENNIAL

The gathering of the third biennial was the largest and strongest in the history of the General Federation. Louisville struck an accordant note from the beginning. Its local committees represented every need of a great and diversified assemblage, and were organized in the most efficient way for the prompt transaction of business, and the comfort of the visiting delegates.

Upon arrival, these hundreds of women from every part of the Union were met by members of the various local committees, and the hostesses to whose hospitality they had been consigned, and by whom they were carried off with cordial welcome to the beautiful Southern homes.

Louisville is a most attractive city, with fine, well-shaded, well-kept streets, and a charming environment. The members of the Woman's Club spared no effort to make the occasion memorable.

The beginning was but the opening of the door to a warmth of Southern hospitality which those who shared can never forget.



Preliminaries, under the auspices of the credential committee, Mrs. James Leech, chairman, were quickly arranged, and the General Federation met promptly at 9.30 A.M., at Macauley's Theatre, Wednesday, May 27, 1896.

This first session had been preceded by a Council meeting at the Galt House on the afternoon of the 27th, where it had been decided that the business sessions from 9.30 to 11 A.M. should be restricted to delegates and club members, while all other meetings were open to any one who desired to attend them.

Mrs. C. P. Barnes, the then president of the Woman's Club of Louisville, and the recording secretary of the General Federation, introduced Mrs. Henrotin, who called upon the Rev. Anna Garland Spencer for the invocation.

Mrs. Patty B. Semple made the address of welcome, which was most thoughtful and suggestive. She said :

"Such an assemblage as this makes thought active. I am here to bid you welcome ; I do so with all my heart. In the name of our club, our city, our State, and in the name of the South, now at least in one sense the 'solid South,' united as it is in a desire to take its place in the march of progress.

"As I look upon this audience, of all the thoughts that come to me, contrast is uppermost. The picture of the past and the present. The picture of the past, in which no woman is to be seen. The picture of the present, in which she stands as the representative figure of all that is best and noblest."

Mrs. Semple closed with the following words:

"Besides the honor of representing my club to-day, and bidding you welcome, I have another pleasant duty to perform. Only one who has been in the position of chief executor of a large body can fully realize the demands which such a position makes; the untiring energy required, the expenditure of time and force, the sacrifice of personal plans and wishes, the infinite patience, the calm, clear judgment. That you, Madam President, possess these qualifications has been proved by your being chosen to that office, and by the ability with which you have filled it. It is the wish of the Woman's Club of Louisville to make some expression of its appreciation of those services which it has shared with other clubs. We have selected as an appropriate medium this gavel, made from the wood of a tree of Ashland, one of the very trees, perhaps, under which Henry Clay and Abraham Lincoln once walked and talked together. It may stand, then, as a symbol of this new union in which we rejoice, as you, Madam President, stand as the type of a nobler womanhood toward which we are all striving. We beg that you will use it during the meetings this week and keep it as a mark of our esteem. A modest offering to carry so great a weight, but you will remember the proverb that Theocritus has preserved for us, 'Surely great grace goes with a little gift, and all the offerings of friends are precious.'"

The president's address was a lengthy résumé of the work of her administration, and was distributed to the delegates in printed form. She said in part:

"The time is necessarily so short at the disposal of a convention where so many subjects are to be discussed, and so much routine business to be transacted, as is the case at the biennial, that it has seemed wise to publish this address rather than take the time to deliver it. The published reports of the biennial will include the reports of the general officers, and from them you can form some idea of the extent of the labor involved in conducting this organization. The success of the Federation is due to the thorough manner in which all have fulfilled their duties.

"To the board of the Federation we tender our sincere thanks, and to the vice-president, who has visited many cities in the interest of club extension, and has always been willing to give that personal coöperation which is the most valuable gift any one can share. The recording secretary has compiled the records, in perfect form; the record books of the Federation are among the exhibits, and all club members should examine them. The corresponding secretary has conducted the extensive correspondence, on which depended so much the success of this organization, with promptitude, and has always been willing to extend that gracious word which makes a business letter a pleasure.

"The treasurer, though residing at a great distance from the other general officers, by her immediate response to all letters, and the admirable and concise manner in which she has kept her accounts, has entirely obviated all seeming difficulty in this respect. I recommend the reports of these officers to your careful consideration as models of business methods. The chairmen of State correspondence have devoted both time and energy to extend a knowledge of the General Federation. To the valuable coöperation of these officers is largely due the rapid increase in membership since 1894.

"I appreciate the significance of this gathering, and the Federation has great cause of congratulation in having secured the hospitality of Louisville. Two meetings of the Board of Directors have been held since 1894; this does not, of course, include the meeting of the board held in Philadelphia, immediately following the biennial. The first board meeting was held at St. Louis and the second at Atlanta, Ga.

"The chairmen of State correspondence and the presidents of State federations also met at Atlanta, with the board, by the invitation of the Woman's Board of Managers of the Atlanta Exposition, and the Georgia Woman's Press Club, a member of the General Federation. The result of this meeting was the great interest aroused in club extension throughout the South, and two clubs were thereby added to the Federation, the Woman's Club of Atlanta and the Woman's Club of Rome. At the board's meeting

in St. Louis, held in October, 1894, the invitation of the Louisville club was accepted, to hold the biennial of 1896 in this city.

"The woman's club movement has been one of the educational factors of the century, and valuable, as it has enabled women who could not leave home to proceed with their education through classes and in the department club, to transmit into action the knowledge they had acquired. The club work gave them that exact knowledge and experience which enabled them to act with decision and courage, a courage which nothing but wisdom can justify, and which only women of broad sympathy can make available.

"The New Century of Philadelphia, the New Century of Wilmington, the Peoria Woman's Club, the Propylæum of Indianapolis, the New Century of Utica, the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky, and others, are examples of sound financial management. The clubs are becoming ambitious to own their own club-houses, convinced they can thus increase their usefulness and be able to extend hospitality to sister associations.

"Six years ago the General Federation was organized, having as its object the union of the clubs of the country, to promote their efficiency by the comparison of methods of work, to enlarge and quicken the intellectual and social life of women. The Federation is to-day an organization of vast dimensions, numbering over 478 clubs, and twenty State federations with 947 clubs. The membership of these clubs includes the large city club, numbering many hundreds, to the small club whose membership does not exceed thirty or forty. The membership of the General Federation by States is as follows:

"Alabama, 2; Arkansas, 4; California, 17; Colorado, 12; Connecticut, 7; Delaware, 1; Washington (D. C.), 3; Florida, 1; Georgia, 4; Idaho, 5; Illinois, 74; Indiana, 22; Iowa, 35; Kansas, 2; Kentucky, 16; Louisiana, 2; Maine, 4; Maryland, 3; Massachusetts, 59; Missouri, 8; Montana, 1; Mississippi, 1; Nebraska, 1; New Hampshire, 1; New Jersey, 16; New Mexico, 2; New York, 36; North Dakota, 1; Ohio, 56; Oregon, 3; Pennsylvania, 21; Rhode Island, 3; South Carolina, 1; South Dakota, 2; Tennessee, 6; Texas, 4; Utah, 2; Vermont, 1; Washington, 7; Wisconsin, 8; India, 3; England, 1; Australia, 1.

"During my presidency I have visited twenty-four States and fifty-one cities in the interests of the Federation.

"When I became president I was impressed with the fact that no such large organization could be held long together without a definite object. The question heard at the biennial at Philadelphia, 'What are we here for?' could no longer be answered to the satisfaction of the clubs, for they, having inaugurated the policy of doing practical work, demanded a practical issue of the Federation. It would, however, have been impossible to establish any

one system of study or work available for all the clubs, for the needs of every locality differ; were the Federation to undertake to provide a system suited to all, it would certainly fail.

"The solution of the difficulty presented itself in following the example already inaugurated by Iowa, Maine, and Massachusetts, to form State federations.

"In 1894 these three States were federated auxiliary to the General; in May, 1896, the State federations organized auxiliary to the General are New Hampshire, Rhode Island, New York, and New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Minnesota, Ohio, Michigan, Illinois, Kentucky, Tennessee, Kansas, Colorado, Missouri, Utah, Nebraska, and the District of Columbia, making twenty States now federated, with an aggregate membership of 947 individual clubs.

"Two States have federated which have not yet joined the General—Alabama and Florida.

"I have been present at the formation of most of the State federations, and I have given time and energy to further this cause; I have attended the annual meetings of many of the States, and I can testify to the practical advantages which accrue to the clubs by the formation of State federations, in the broadening of social life and the feeling of solidarity which grows on women who are brought thus intimately into contact with the citizens of their own State once a year. The programmes presented at the State federations have been remarkable for the breadth of work and the growing interest which they have evinced in sociology and civics. Many of the State federations have adopted specific lines of work. Maine has taken up the public schools, establishing kindergartens and public libraries; Michigan has adopted the study of household economics; New York, educational questions, and creating free libraries; Ohio, establishing public libraries; and Colorado, as would be natural for women who have the suffrage, the study of civics; the District of Columbia, the reform laws affecting women and children in the District.

"The work of the biennial is divided into departments, and this department will, I trust, meet with your approval and be suggestive. The department meetings represent either the work or study in which the clubs are engaged. The departments are as follows: Literature, Education, Philanthropy, Social Economics, the Home, and Finance.

"When an organization covers so broad a field as the Federation, reports or papers to be valuable must be classified; then the trend of thought is preserved, and the clubs are enabled to form an estimate of the aims and the results obtained by a systematic presentation of the subject.

"At the new year I sent out to the State federations and the clubs a letter of greeting, in which I called their attention to the movement favoring international arbitration, and requested each club to hold a meeting to con-

sider the subject of international and national arbitration and industrial conciliation, and the important part which women are taking in educating, through peace societies, public opinion in favor of universal disarmament.

"I recommend that this biennial prepare a series of resolutions tendering sympathy and aid to the English and continental women. The Baroness Bertha von Suttner, author of 'Ground Arms,' is the courageous leader of the peace crusade. She is an honorary member of the General Federation.

"The report of the Committee on Reciprocity and Correspondence demonstrates the advance made by the clubs in systematic study. The demand is ever increasing for the programmes issued by that committee, and, above all, for ones on social economics and the new education.

"The suggestions sent out by the Committee for Social Meetings have been adopted by many clubs, and I hear on all sides of social symposiums and children's days.

"In many cities the clubs have formed federations, which are usually divided into departments covering the interests of the city. The village and town improvement associations are doing excellent work on the same lines, and all testify to the growing interest of women in civics.

"The board, at this meeting in Atlanta, authorized me to invite English and European women to honorary membership in the General Federation. A good beginning has been made. The club movement is unknown on the continent and very little is known in England. The women who are honorary members of the Federation will become interested, examine it, and will ultimately establish clubs in their own country.

"One of the suggestive features of the Federation work has been club extension, and clubs have consequently been organized in many small country towns. Several State federations have committees on club extension.

"To women who live in cities the seeming monotony of life in country places is difficult to apprehend. A city woman needs her club, but to the country woman it is essential, for life with her seems in a groove, and in danger of dropping into the personal on all questions because she is not in touch with the activities which are the power of life. The club takes the interest outside the narrow individual life and brings it into unison with the community life, and through the State and General Federation the community life comes into unity with the national life."

The reports of the secretaries presented some interesting features.

In addition to the routine work, the recording secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, had collected the records of the General Federation, and classified them for reference in four volumes.

The first contained the constitution, by-laws, and minutes of the conventions of the General Federation in New York, May, 1890; in Chicago,

May, 1892; in Philadelphia, May, 1894. Also, the minutes of the first Council, in East Orange, May, 1891; of the second Council, in Chicago, May, 1893; and of the third, in Atlanta, November, 1895.

Volume second was devoted to the constitution, by-laws, and minutes of the meetings of the Board of Directors and of the reports of special committees.

In volume third were gathered the addresses delivered before conventions and councils. Volume fourth was the index to the first three, arranged alphabetically, topically, and chronologically.

The corresponding secretary summarized the strength of the General Federation briefly as follows:

"The Federation numbered in May, 1894, 355 clubs and 4 State federations. When the list was made out in December, 1894, there were 412 clubs and 8 State federations. When the list was completed in December, 1895, there were 443 clubs and 16 State federations. At the present time there are 495 clubs and 21 State federations, the latter including over 800 clubs.

"Many small clubs have withdrawn during these two years, finding it impossible to pay dues to, and do work in, both State and General Federation.

"These withdrawals have been only 30 in number, while the additions have been 200. This leaves the final statement 495 clubs (individual), and 21 State federations (including about 800 clubs), giving a total individual membership in round numbers of 100,000.

"Of our membership only 50 club s are pursuing purely literary lines of work. In the departments 371 are interested in literary work, which includes art, science, philosophy, and kindred subjects; 232 have enrolled under education, including practical work in kindergartens and schools; 174 in philanthropy, which means sociology as applied to philanthropy, theoretical and practical; 165 are pursuing household economics in various lines; 163 have taken social economics, as applied to the history and practical application of municipal and legislative work, with village improvement societies, etc.

"One hundred and nine have considered financial life both privately and publicly, with management of club homes, etc. Three clubs have founded and maintained hospitals; four have established and supported public libraries; others support free kindergartens and women's exchanges."

She called attention to the fact that in communication with local clubs she could rarely obtain an answer from the corresponding secretary. In nearly all cases she had been obliged to duplicate her letters by addressing the president of the club, from whom she had usually received a prompt reply.

This suggested the necessity of more careful consideration among the clubs, of the selection of a competent member to fill so important an office as that of corresponding secretary.

The report stated that, in consequence of the death of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, the work of foreign correspondence had devolved again upon the president, who had requested the corresponding secretary to offer the honorary membership, voted by the General Federation, to the following women representing literary, educational, and philanthropic work abroad.

Replies had been received from the first ten, accepting this honor in appreciative terms. The following is the list as addressed:

Miss Florence Routledge, Woman's Trades Union League, London, England; Baroness Bertha von Suttner, Hermansdorf, Lower Austria; Mme. Isabella Bogelot, Directrice Générale de Saint Lazare, Paris; Lady Aberdeen, president National Council of Women, Ottawa, Canada; Mrs. Margaret P. Murray, president Woman's Department, Canadian Exposition, Montreal, Canada; Mme. Yakoot Sarruf, Cairo, Egypt; Lady Emilia Dilke, London; Fräulein Helene Lange, Victoria Institute, Berlin; Mrs. J. A. Galloway, Queen Margaret College, Glasgow; Countess de Denterghem, Brussels, Belgium; Mme. Jules Siegfried, Havre, France; Mlle. Anne de Beauvet, editor of the *Nouvelle Revue*, Paris; Miss Clementina Black, London; Philippa Faucett, Cambridge; Mme. Pauline Kergomard, member of the Upper Council of Public Instruction, Paris; Mme. le Docteur Archangeloski, principal of the Petrowski Hospital, Moscow; Mlle. Conta, professor of philosophy in the Preparatory School for Young Girls, Yassy, Roumania.

The treasurer's report, presented by Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, of San Francisco, showed:

Balance received.....	\$2,504 40
Dues.....	2,971 56
Total.....	<u>\$5,476 46</u>
Disbursements.....	3,110 14
Balance on hand.....	<u>\$2,366 32</u>

The report of the badge committee showed that orders were constantly increasing, and that the difference between cost and price brought a trifling sum to the treasury instead of a demand upon it.

A letter of greeting was read from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe.

A despatch of congratulation was received by Mrs. Henrotin from Mrs. Letitia Green Stevenson, the president of the National Society of the Daughters of the American Revolution, in the name of the 14,000 daughters of that body. Mrs. Henry Soloman, president of the Jewish Council, brought greetings to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and Mrs. Mary Lowe Dickinson, president of the National Council of Women, presented fraternal greetings from that body.

The report of the chairman of the Committee on Reciprocity and Correspondence was not read, but it was recorded upon the minutes. Mrs. Elizabeth Ballard Thompson gave, as the result of the work of the reciprocity and correspondence committee, suggestive programmes upon ten subjects; namely, Social Science, the New Education, Household Economics, American History, Early English Literature, Children's Day at Clubs, a Social Symposium, Reciprocity, American Literature, Country Clubs and Travelling Libraries.

The original committee had chosen Miss Mary D. Steele as the chief of this department work. Her severe illness resulted in the appointment of Mrs. Thompson as her successor.

Mrs. Thompson paid a high tribute to her and suggested that, in view of her valuable service, both upon the Advisory Board and in this committee, an expression of appreciation be forwarded to her sick-room from the convention. This was promptly acted upon and the message sent.

Sixteen reports were given by the chairmen of State correspondence, in alphabetical order, beginning with Arkansas. And a number of invitations were received, and read by the corresponding secretary, from public institutions of Louisville to the visiting delegates.

The morning of the second day, May 28th, beginning at 9.30 A.M., was given to the report of the Committee on the Revision of By-Laws.

In the absence of the chairman, Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, Mrs. Osgood, of Maine, presented the report, which was taken up and discussed section by section.

This occupied a great deal of time, prolonged until after the business sessions had closed, leaving certain details to be settled by the Executive Board.

The constitution and by-laws, as completed and adopted (May, 1896), will be found in the Appendix to this volume.

THE DEPARTMENT WORK

The time for business trespassed upon the department meetings, and caused some confusion and conflict of duty between the representatives of local bodies and members of department committees.

The Department of Literature was called for 11 A.M., May 27th, by Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, the chairman of that section.

The work began with a study of local history, and continued the study by reports from local clubs, and an inquiry into the work of the travelling clubs as connected with history.

It then took up the study of Shakespeare's historical plays as reported by clubs, and closed the division with a paper from Miss Marion Couthony

Smith, of Orange, N. J., upon "The Historical Novel and Drama as Interpreters of History." The second division in literature considered poetry, music, and art, led by an important paper on "Faust" by Mrs. May-Alden Ward, of Cambridge, Mass., and continued by Mrs. Alice Williams Brotherton, of Cincinnati, and Miss Mary E. Bulkley, St. Louis. The place of art in the women's club of to-day was discussed by reports from clubs, followed by the "Message of Music," by Mrs. Ida C. Thorndyke, of Tennessee, and the "Development of German Lied," by Miss Emilie Schipper, of Plainfield, N. J. The papers on music were accompanied by practical illustrations.

There was a joint session, on May 29th, of the departments of Literature and Education, and a contribution of Literature to the evening addresses of May 28th, "Romance," by Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood, of Illinois.

Section second, "Home"—chairman, Mrs. John Vance Cheney, of Chicago—began its work on Thursday, May 28th, at 11 A. M., with a paper on "Household Economics, and the Chemistry of Body-building," by Mrs. S. T. Rorer, of Philadelphia, the discussion led by Mrs. Helen Campbell, of Madison, Wis. The second paper, on "Physical Culture," by Mrs. Mary L. Sherman, of Cambridge, Mass., was discussed by Dr. A. M. Beecher and others, and followed by a paper on "The Social Aspects of Home Life," by Mrs. Ellen A. Richardson, of Boston, Mass., the discussion led by Mrs. Lydia Avery Coonley. Mrs. Wise reported the growth of the National Household Economics Association, and "Home Life in India" was the subject of an interesting paper by Miss W. L. Armstrong, of Ceylon.

Two papers upon different aspects of "Social Life" were contributed by the Home department to the evening session of May 29th, one given by Mrs. E. L. Mason, the other by Mrs. Helen A. Gardiner.

The Department of Philanthropy, Mrs. J. M. Flower, chairman, began its work on the first morning, May 27th, with a paper upon "Relief and Aid," by Mrs. Josephine Shaw Lowell, New York; "The Care and Training of Dependent and Delinquent Children" was the subject of careful study by Miss Elizabeth C. Putnam, of Boston, Mass.; "Institution Life for Children," by Miss Arria Huntington, of Syracuse; the Michigan system of caring for such children was described by Mrs. H. J. Boutell, of Detroit, and the Massachusetts system by Miss Clara Adams, of Lynn, Mass.

The joint session of departments of Philanthropy and Social Economics was held on the morning of May 28th, Mrs. Grace H. Bagley, of Chicago, giving the first paper, on "The Study of Sociology as the Basis for Effective Charity."

Mrs. Platt, president of the Denver Woman's Club, gave a paper upon "The Opportunity of Women's Clubs to Increase the Efficiency of Public Charitable Institutions."

The Department of Finance, Mrs. Edward Longstreth, Philadelphia, chairman, opened its sessions on the first morning, May 27th, with a paper by Mrs. Helen Campbell on "The Wages of Women," which was followed by reports of club-houses and stock companies as represented by such enterprises in the clubs of the General Federation.

"Women in Trades and Professions" were represented by fourteen papers, beginning with "Women in Law," by Mrs. Kellogg, of Emporia, Kan. Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart spoke for the authors; Miss Cordelia Kirkland, of Chicago, for teachers; Dr. Marble, of Washington, D. C., for "Women in Medicine"; and Miss Emily Sartain, Philadelphia, for "Women in Art."

Miss Agnes Repplier spoke for "Women in Finance" at the evening session of May 28th.

The Department of Social Economics, Mrs. Martha E. Fischel, of St. Louis, chairman, began with a joint session of its work with that of Philanthropy, on the morning of May 28th.

Rev. Caroline J. Bartlett, of Kalamazoo, Mich., gave the first paper, upon "The Individual Factor in Social Regeneration"; Mrs. Margaret T. Yardley, East Orange, N. J., a paper on "Working Girls' Clubs," and Mrs. Bolton Smith, of Memphis, Tenn., one upon "State Boards of Charities."

The work was continued on Friday morning, May 29th, by a paper from Mrs. B. M. Perry, of Charlotte, Mich., upon "Women as Conservators of Public Health." The report of Committee on Municipal Reform was made by Mrs. J. H. Scribner, of Philadelphia, followed by discussion, and a paper upon "Village and Township Improvement," by Mrs. A. Hall, of Montclair, N. J. The discussion of this paper was led by Miss Margaret J. Evans, of Northfield, Minn., and Mrs. C. J. Barlett, of Santa Fé, N. M.

"Recent Legislation as it Affects Social and Economic Life" was the subject of a paper by Mrs. Frances Hardin Hess, of New York; and "The Trend of American Sentiment toward Labor Movements," by Mrs. C. S. Brown, of Chicago, Ill.

A report of Committee on Sociology concluded the session.

The contribution of the joint departments of Philanthropy and Home to the evening session of May 29th was one of the most valuable papers of the convention, given by Miss Ellen C. Semple, Louisville, Ky.: "Civilization is at Bottom an Economic Fact."

Education, which strikes the keynote of so much of the work in women's clubs, was rightly considered one of the most important of the six departments under which the work of the third biennial was organized. Its chairman was Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, of Philadelphia, assisted by Miss Margaret J. Evans, of Northfield, Minn.

The sessions began on the morning of May 28th, with "The Philosophy of the Kindergarten," by Miss Amelia Hofer, followed by discussion. "The School, a Moral Factor in the Nation," was the subject of the most important paper of the session, and was made the basis of the subsequent educational inquiry recommended to local clubs by the General Federation. The author, Miss Evans, Dean of Carlton College, Northfield, Minn., led the discussion, which was very animated, and to which Mrs. E. E. Lane-Bowes contributed. It was followed by a paper on "The College Girl and Society," by Miss Agnes Irwin, of Philadelphia.

The joint session of the departments of Education and Literature formed the closing exercises of the session, and included papers on "University Extension Lectures," by Mrs. E. A. Reed and Miss Louise Stockton, of Philadelphia, and "The Boston Public Library," by Miss Helen M. Winslow.

To the evening session of May 28th the contribution of Education was "The Relation of the College to the Lower Schools," by Miss Clara Conway, of Memphis, Tenn.

All the department papers given at the third biennial were published in the Department Report, 1896.

SOCIAL AND OTHER FEATURES

The first evening, May 27th, was signalized by a magnificent reception given by the Woman's Club of Louisville, to delegates and visiting club members. To the reception committee was added the officers of the General Federation, and a number of the representative women present at the biennial.

The gathering was brilliant and very large. Many gentlemen were present, and the profuse floral decorations, the exquisite toilets, and refined personality which is a distinguishing trait of club women, combined to render it a memorable event.

During its progress, the great storm broke which devastated St. Louis and endangered Louisville, that city being also in the path of the cyclone. Fortunately, it escaped with a wind-swept drenching, and the vast crowd of ladies and escorts reached their homes in safety.

This storm deprived the General Federation, temporarily, of its able corresponding secretary, whose home in St. Louis was destroyed.

The evening sessions, May 28th and 29th, were, perhaps, the most striking and picturesque of all the great gatherings of the convention. In the first place, it brought all the delegates and their friends, men and women, together in audiences that tested the capacity of the vast auditorium of Macauley's Theatre. The stage was a picture, with its palms, its floral

decorations, and its groups of officers reinforced by distinguished women invited to the platform.

The boxes were filled by the chairmen of State correspondence on the first evening, and by the State presidents on the second.

The beauty and refinement of the women, and their charming toilets, added much to the generally brilliant effect.

The papers were contributed by the sections, one from each.

On the first evening Literature presented "Romance," by Mrs. Mary Hartwell Catherwood; Education, "The Relation of the College to the Lower School," by Miss Clara Conway; Finance gave "Woman in Finance," by Miss Agnes Repplier.

The second evening, which was the last of the convention, brought a paper upon "Philanthropy," by Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer; "Civilization as an Economic Fact," by Miss Ellen Semple; and "Social Life," in two brief papers, by Mrs. Eleanor Mason and Mrs. Helen H. Gardiner.

A delightful feature was the patriotic music and folk-songs interspersed between the papers, and several times brought the assemblage to the point of enthusiasm.

The afternoon of Thursday was given to receptions to delegates divided by States, a number of the club women of Louisville acting as the hostesses and inviting the delegates from the States assigned to them to their homes, and entertaining them royally. Many delegates received several of these invitations, and went in their carriages from one house to another.

THE ELECTION

On Friday morning the convention was called to order by the president, and the nominating committee was announced by the recording secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, as follows: Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, Colorado, chairman; Miss Rosa Woodberry, Georgia, secretary; Miss Martha Scott Anderson, Minnesota, assistant secretary; Mrs. William C. Ratcliffe, Arkansas; Mrs. Francis A. Eastman, California; Mrs. E. R. Abbott, Connecticut; Mrs. M. N. Mather, Delaware; Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, District of Columbia; Mrs. Mary Ruger, Florida; Mrs. James H. Flower, Illinois; Mrs. Joseph Milburn, Indiana; Mrs. J. H. Windsor, Iowa; Mrs. Gilmer S. Adams, Kentucky; Dr. G. A. Dight, Louisiana; Mrs. Henry F. Dowst, Maine; Mrs. Julia K. Dyer, Massachusetts; Mrs. Alma M. Palmer, Michigan; Mrs. J. A. Allen, Missouri; Mrs. E. J. Lindsay, Nebraska; Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, New Jersey; Mrs. Frank Streeter, New Hampshire; Mrs. F. A. Goodale, New York; Mrs. W. J. Huggins, Ohio; Mrs. J. C. Curd, Oregon; Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Pennsylvania; Mrs. Richard C. Graves, Tennessee; Miss Katherine Allen, Rhode

Island ; Miss Clara D. Coe, South Dakota ; Mrs. E. M. Allen, Utah ; Mrs. Alice Baird, Washington ; Mrs. Charles Morris, Wisconsin.

Pending its action a resolution was offered by Miss Annie Laws, of Ohio, expressive of the sorrow felt at the calamity that had befallen St. Louis, and the corresponding secretary of the General Federation. This was adopted, and a telegram of condolence also ordered to be sent to Mrs. May Wright Sewall on the death of her husband.

Mrs. Yeomans moved the appointment of a Committee on Resolutions. The motion was carried, and the chair appointed Mrs. Electa H. L. Walton, Massachusetts ; Mrs. Ella L. T. Baldwin, Massachusetts ; Mrs. Elizabeth H. Ball, Illinois ; Mrs. Charlotte R. Conover, Ohio ; Mrs. Mary R. Hall, Pennsylvania ; Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, Colorado ; Mrs. Gertrude B. Eastman, California ; Miss Sophie B. Wright, Louisiana.

Adjournment was then made to the afternoon, three P.M. At that hour the convention was called to order by the vice-president, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford.

Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles, of Rockford, Ill., offered the following resolutions :

WHEREAS, The time is ripe for the adoption by the General Federation of Women's Clubs of a subject which shall be a central point of interest and work for all clubs represented ; therefore,

Resolved, That we recommend to the clubs a study of the science of education and of educational conditions existing in their home cities, to the end that the united influence of women's clubs may be exerted for the betterment of the State system of education from the kindergarten to the university.

Resolved, further, That we especially urge effort to emphasize systematic instruction in ethics in the public school curriculum.

Resolved, further, That the Board of Directors be asked to appoint a committee to make these suggestions effective.

(Signed) ALICE BRADFORD WILES, Chairman ;
MARY H. WILMARTH,
MARGARET J. EVANS,

Committee appointed by Education Department to formulate resolutions.

The resolution was adopted and referred to the Board of Directors.

The nominating committee then reported the following ticket :

President, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, Illinois ; vice-president, Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, Massachusetts ; recording secretary, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Kentucky ; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, Missouri ; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Trumbull, Colorado ; auditor, Miss Annie Laws, Ohio ; directors : Mrs. Sarah

B. Cooper, California; Mrs. Lucie E. Blount, District of Columbia; Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, Maine; Miss Sophie B. Wright, Louisiana; Mrs. F. M. Ford, Nebraska; Mrs. George W. Townsend, New York; Miss Clara Conway, Tennessee; Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes, Washington; Mrs. Edward Longstreth, Pennsylvania.

On motion of the recording secretary the following tellers were appointed: Miss Mary Johnston, Mrs. Gilmer S. Adams, Miss Anna Hamilton, Miss Annie Moore, Mrs. George C. Avery, Mrs. Llewellyn Johnson, Mrs. Margaret Yardley, Mrs. Edith McCarthy, Miss Annie Ainslie, Miss Annie Jones, Miss Lucie Norton, Miss Fannie Craig.

The ticket was elected.

A resolution of protest against the cruelties practised upon the Armenians was received from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, read by Mrs. E. L. Walton, and adopted. Miss Mary B. Temple, of Knoxville, Tenn., brought an invitation to the General Federation of Women's Clubs to hold a congress in that city during the Tennessee Exposition in 1897. This was referred to the Board of Directors.

Invitations for the biennial of 1898 were received from Denver, Colo., Greater New York, Boston, and Omaha. These were read and referred to the Board of Directors.

Mrs. Alice Ives Breed offered the following motion: That Mrs. J. C. Croly of New York, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe of Boston, and Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone of Michigan, be made honorary vice-presidents of this body.

This was seconded and carried.

Mrs. Harriet R. Shattuck offered a series of resolutions looking to the better protection of forests and woods of America.

These were adopted.

Miss Janet Richards offered this resolution:

Whereas, According to the programme arranged for this biennial, interesting and instructive exercises have been in progress at *one and the same time* in three different halls, resulting in great confusion of mind and conflict of spirit



MRS. ELLEN M. HENROTIN,

Re-elected President General Federation of Women's Clubs

on the part of visitors, because of the difficulty of making a choice from this "embarrassment of riches," and

Whereas, Many of the speakers at these "department meetings" were distinguished women, who came from remote portions of the country to read papers, and who, because of the difficulties of the situation, could command but small audiences, therefore

Resolved, That the Board of Directors of the next biennial try to devise some means to obviate this difficulty, and so arrange the programme that all the exercises of the biennial may be enjoyed by each and every member thereof.

This was referred to the Board of Directors.

The Committee on Resolutions, chairman, Mrs. Walton, of Massachusetts, offered the following report, which was adopted by a rising vote:

Whereas, The General Federation of Women's Clubs now closes its third biennial, a most valuable and inspiring convention, which has filled us all with the fervor of new ideas and higher ideals, has illuminated the dark places and taught us to smooth the difficulties of club life, and will send us home wiser, better, and, we hope, more useful women; and

Whereas, All these things have been made possible to us largely through the energy, foresight, and good management of the women of Louisville; and

Whereas, In the address of welcome the speaker said, "I bid you welcome; I do so with all my heart; in the name of the club, of the city and of the South, I bid you welcome: while you are with us our best is at your command," every word came so genuinely from the heart that it was received into our hearts; therefore,

Resolved, That the General Federation of Women's Clubs will treasure forever this beautiful memory of the welcome received, and that we extend to the Woman's Club and to the women of Louisville the assurance of our appreciation and thanks for their gracious hospitality. We shall take with us the remembrance of every special act which has contributed to the success of the convention; we shall recall their admirable business arrangements, the warmth of their hospitality, the grasp of their hands,



MRS. ALICE IVES BREED,
Vice-President General Federation of Women's Clubs

and the welcome in their eyes. All these things shall be kept in happy remembrance in view of that future biennial when some time and somewhere in the North we shall hope to extend to our Southern sisters a welcome as gracious and as hearty as their own.

We specially mention the names of the following ladies, who have been untiring in their efforts to make this biennial a success, namely: Miss Lafon, chairman local committee, and her able assistant, Miss Quigley; Mrs. Pettit, chairman hotel and homes; Mrs. Leech, chairman credential committee; Mrs. Allen, chairman press committee; Miss Norton, chairman entertainment committee; Mrs. Charles Smith, chairman arrangement committee; Mrs. George C. Avery, chairman railroads committee; Mrs. Barnett, bureau of information; Miss Annie Jones, chairman club exhibit; also, Mrs. S. S. Hartwell and Miss Alice Jones, who, as doorkeepers, have stood bravely at their posts, sacrificing their comfort to our pleasure.

We cannot forget the bright, pretty ushers and pages, who, with swift, noiseless, and efficient service, flitted like butterflies from flower to flower in the convention garden.

Thanks are due to all who threw open their homes to the delegates, and by their genuine hospitality gave them a true Southern welcome; also to Mrs. Charles H. Gheens, Mrs. W. R. Belknap, Mrs. C. J. F. Allen, Mrs. Andrew Cowan, Mrs. S. M. Hamilton, Mrs. George C. Avery, and Mrs. A. P. Humphrey, who royally entertained at afternoon receptions in their homes.

Thanks are also due to the Louisville Alumnae Association, who have so truly shown the teachings of their *Alma Mater*; also, to the Monday Afternoon Club, the press for its dignified and truthful reports, and to the hotels for their courtesy and prompt service.

We recognize the efficient work of our department committees:

Finance, Mrs. Longstreth, chairman, Philadelphia, Penn.;

Literature, Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, chairman, Plainfield, N. J.;

Education, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, chairman, Philadelphia, Penn.;

Home, Mrs. J. V. Cheney, chairman, San Francisco, Cal.;

Philanthropy, Mr. J. M. Flower, chairman, Chicago, Ill.;

Social Economics, Mrs. Martha E. Fischel, chairman, St. Louis, Mo.

Thanks are due the retiring officer, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, who, to our regret, declined reelection; also, to Mrs. C. P. Barnes, the recording secretary,



MRS. FRANK TRUMBULL,
Treasurer General Federation



MISS ANNIE LAWS,
Auditor General Federation

who, notwithstanding ill-health, has with patient endurance looked after every required detail; and to our corresponding secretary, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, who with heroic fortitude has stood by the convention in spite of the tidings of disaster in her St. Louis home.

Thanks are due Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, who by her careful management has left the affairs of the General Federation on a sound financial basis, and to the retiring directors, who during the past two years have rendered such efficient service.

And lastly, we wish to acknowledge the unspeakable debt of this Federation to the faculty for organization and power to compel good results which are the characterizing qualities of our gracious president. In the secluded quiet of her own library she has evolved the plan of this convention which we have seen so brilliantly executed, and which is the concentrated result of two years of untiring thought and energy.

Therefore we clasp hands with her in a spirit of congratulation for her own success, and of congratulation to ourselves for our own great gain from that success.

ELECTA H. L. WALTON, Massachusetts.
ELLA L. T. BALDWIN, Massachusetts.
ELIZABETH H. BALL, Illinois.
CHARLOTTE R. CONOVER, Ohio.
SOPHIE B. WRIGHT, Louisiana.
MARY R. HALL, Pennsylvania.
SARAH S. PLATT, Colorado.
GERTRUDE B. EASTMAN, California.

At the conclusion of the reading of the resolutions Mrs. Henrotin was called for. The president was visibly affected, but she thanked the delegates for her reelection, and presented Mrs. Breed, the newly elected vice-president.

Mrs. Breed acknowledged the introduction and the welcome she received in a few happy words, and, as she concluded, shared with Mrs. Henrotin in the presentation, by Mrs. John A. Coonley, of Chicago, of magnificent bouquets of American beauty roses, sent from the State of Illinois.

The final work of the convention was a meeting of the Council at the Galt House, at 9 A.M., on May 30th, the president in the chair.

The first order of business was the presentation of an outline plan by Mrs. J. C. Croly, of the "History of the Woman's Club Movement in America," referred from the board meeting in Atlanta.

Mrs. Croly presented her plan and asked for corrections. Mrs. Sarah Cooper said she thought none could be offered. It seemed "altogether admirable."

On motion of Mrs. C. P. Barnes, Mrs. J. C. Croly was appointed a committee of one to write this history. Motion was seconded by Mrs. Hardin Hess, of New York, and carried unanimously.

Mrs. Clara P. Bourland, State chairman of correspondence for Illinois, offered the following resolution:

"That the title-page of the constitution, also that of the biennial report, should contain the statement that the General Federation of Women's Clubs was organized at a meeting called by Sorosis in May, 1889." Carried.

Mrs. Wiles moved: "That the resolutions in regard to public education be printed immediately by the Board of Directors, and as soon as possible sent to all federated clubs, with the names of the committee which, under that resolution, was to be appointed by the Board of Directors." Carried.

Council adjourned to meet at call of Board of Directors.

EDUCATIONAL SECTION OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

In accordance with the resolution offered by Mrs. Wiles, of Illinois, the following letter was sent to all presidents of federated clubs:

DEAR MADAM: The proceedings of the educational section of the Louisville biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs were of deep interest and found expression in the following resolutions, which were unanimously adopted by the Federation at its general session, May 29, 1896:

Whereas, The time is ripe for the adoption by the General Federation of Women's Clubs of a subject which shall be a central point of interest and work for all clubs represented; therefore

Resolved, That we recommend to the clubs a study of the science of education and of educational conditions existing in their home cities, to the end that the united influence of women's clubs may be exerted for the betterment of the State system of education from the kindergarten to the university.

In pursuance of this action, the president of the General Federation appointed a committee to consider and report by circular letter such measures as might be deemed practicable to further the purpose of the resolutions.

The committee, by correspondence, has given the subject much attention, and presents the following recommendations :

First. Each State federation and each club not connected with a State federation shall appoint a committee of three to coöperate with the educational committee of the General Federation to secure by this means uniformity of methods and harmony of action.

Second. The committee recommends that each State federation devote one session or more at the annual meeting to hearing reports on the condition of public education in the State, from the kindergarten to the university ; to devise ways and means to provide for the needs of public education, and by sympathy and coöperation to further the advancement of State education. The committee further recommends that each club, member of a State or the General Federation, pursue the same line of action and devote one session or more during the club year to the consideration of the needs of public education in their respective localities. The programmes for these meetings should be placed in charge of the educational committee of the State or the clubs.

Third. From time to time the central committee will address special bulletins to the State or club committees to be used by them at their discretion in directing local work. The committee submits herewith some practical suggestion for clubs which are willing to devote some of their energy and ability to the subject of general education, and the committee asks their serious consideration by club women in the United States.

Suggestions: 1. Study the science of education ; also the State, county, and municipal systems of schools in your own State.

2. Visit the schools as learners, not as hostile critics. Observe all that is good, and in reporting back to the clubs, apply the knowledge of education gained by careful and sympathetic observation.

3. Use all the personal influence and united effort possible, including the ballot, to remove the schools from political influence and to secure the appointment or the election of intelligent, disinterested, courageous public school officers.

4. Skilled superintendence has now become the keystone of our system of education ; therefore insist that school superintendents shall possess not only broad culture and a sympathetic insight into educational questions, but also moral courage and mental uprightness.

5. Insist upon good, hygienic condition in schoolhouses and school-rooms, as to drainage, ventilation, heat, light, drinking-water, desks, and seats.

6. Watch school legislation and secure carefully digested and carefully worded legislation.

7. Enlist the coöperation of the public press to disseminate knowledge of the schools and of educational questions.

8. Secure close and healthful coöperation between the public library and the public schools, and thus inculcate a love for good literature and the speaking and writing of good English.

9. Secure as far as possible attractive and artistic surroundings for school-houses and in school-rooms; as large, ample playgrounds, well cared for.

10. All clubs organized for a specific purpose can coöperate with the public schools, as art and musical clubs, etc. The proper place of natural science, drawing, music, and manual training in our schools demands thoughtful attention, and, when introduced, watchful care is necessary that they be so taught as to accomplish the results desired.

11. Since that education is of little value whose outcome is not the development of moral character, make a special study of the ethical bearing of our present instruction, and the clubs should seriously discuss the advisability of securing legislation which shall require systematic and definite instruction in ethics. The committee recommends that Miss Margaret J. Evans' paper, "The Schools, a Moral Factor in the Nation," be read and discussed. This paper is published in the biennial report of 1896.

In the General Federation there are twenty-four State federations with a membership of twelve hundred clubs; there are nearly five hundred clubs in the General Federation. The influence on public sentiment which such a body of thoughtful women can exert cannot be overestimated. The future of education in this country is practically in their hands, and education is the corner-stone on which is built the Republic.

(Signed) MARY E. MUMFORD, Chairman.
ELECTA N. L. WALTON.
ALICE BRADFORD WILES.
MARGARET J. EVANS.

THE PRESIDENT OF THE GENERAL FEDERATION

In nothing has the General Federation been more fortunate than in its choice of presidents. If the industry, precision, legal method, and power of grasping details fitted Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown for the task of building up a national organization, Mrs. Henrotin by her experience in large affairs, her many-sided intelligence, her tact and statesmanship, seemed as truly and naturally prepared to be her successor in the wider field that opened before the Federation, not of clubs alone, but the federation of federations.

Mrs. Henrotin was born in Portland, Maine, of English ancestry. Her education was obtained abroad, and her knowledge of foreign languages and insight into manners and customs were of inestimable value in the part she

had to play as vice-president of the Woman's Auxiliary of the International Exposition at Chicago, in 1893. In this official capacity, Mrs. Henrotin became the acting president of the remarkable series of congresses of women that were one of its most novel and brilliant features. The Woman's Auxiliary held 210 congresses, and upwards of twelve hundred sessions, and Mrs. Henrotin was present and addressed nearly every one of these congresses, showing familiarity with world-wide range of subjects.

Socially, Mrs. Henrotin was always known as a brilliant and interesting woman. She was a leader in the associations with which she was connected, and a prominent member of several important women's clubs of Chicago, including the Chicago Woman's Club, the Friday Club, of which she was one of the founders, and the Nineteenth Century Club. But it was not until 1892 that her public life may be said to have begun, with the Congressional appointment to one of the first two great offices ever bestowed upon women by national legislative action. In 1894, at the second biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Philadelphia, Mrs. Henrotin was elected president by a unanimous vote, and reelected by a second unanimous vote at the third biennial (1896), in Louisville.

At the close of Mrs. Brown's second term of office, in the spring of 1894, only four States were organized into Federations: Maine, Iowa, Utah, and Massachusetts.

State federation was still an experiment, and fears were expressed of their possible effect upon the future of the General Federation. But Mrs. Henrotin recognized at once the inevitable nature and possibilities for usefulness in this development; and while strengthening and broadening the work of the General Federation by every means in her power, she gave, by presence and word, an impetus to the formation of State federations that no one else could have given; and a directing influence and inspiration to their life, to which many have borne direct testimony. Mrs. Henrotin is fond of saying that her genius is for "setting other people to work"; she must, however, be credited with great personal and mental activity, exhibited in diversified ways. There is no department of the many covered by the groups and sections of the General Federation upon which she has not at one time or other found it necessary to express herself; and it has always been with judgment, discrimination, and ability. Spoken words may gain something from the charm of a rare personality; but words reduced to cold type live upon their merits, and Mrs. Henrotin's stand every test. While acting as a stimulus to women in education, women in science, women in art, women in literature, she has also made special efforts to naturalize the departments of household economics, and at the same time held the General Federation to its altruistic ideal, to complete freedom from the mercenary self-seeking spirit.

Early in the year 1896 Mrs. Henrotin sent a letter of greeting to the million of women represented by clubs and States in the General Federation. In this letter she called their attention to the movement favoring international arbitration, and requested each club to hold a meeting to consider the subject of national and international adoption of civilized methods for settling disputes and avoiding the cruelties and brutalities of war. The letter closes as follows: "The General Federation of Women's Clubs is the latest development of the movement of voluntary association which characterizes this century; that voluntary subordination of the individual for the good of the whole, that freedom under the law which is the highest development of the personality.

"The Federation stands emphatically as a protest against materialism. In the club movement there is hardly a salaried officer, and in the General Federation not one. It stands also, not for an aristocracy of intellect and ethics, but for the republic of intellect and ethics. Its educational work is to raise the average standard of life, and to broaden the social aims of the community; for a fine social life is the crown of all civilization."

At the last annual meeting of the National Educational Association, held in Milwaukee during July, 1897, Mrs. Henrotin gave an address on the "Value of Coöperation between Women's Clubs and the State and National Teachers' Associations." This address summarized the facts in regard to the educational work of different State federations.

The State of Maine, the first federated, was the first one to appoint a committee on education. Two years ago, at the annual meeting of that federation, the Educational Committee reported on the condition of public school education throughout the State. Last year twenty-two of the twenty-four bills presented to the Legislature for the benefit of school conditions were passed. This favorable legislation is credited to the active interest in school matters evinced by the women's clubs. Kindergartens have been established in many of the large cities. In Portland the Literary Union has raised \$600 to decorate in an artistic manner the school-rooms, and through donations have placed therein good casts and photographs. The work of the State federation is now to be devoted to bettering the condition of the rural schools. When it is considered that two-thirds of the children of the country are educated in rural schools, the importance of this work is obvious.

New Hampshire has appointed a committee on education, and at the next annual meeting will devote a session to the consideration of that subject. The New Hampshire Federation has been occupied in solving the problem of the care of dependent and delinquent children and of their education; and having assisted in its solution, the federation will now turn its attention to the public school system.

Vermont has appointed a committee on education, and will devote a session at the annual meeting to the consideration of the public school system.

Massachusetts will devote the first meeting of the Federation in the autumn to a symposium on the educational conditions in the State.

Connecticut has but recently organized a State federation, but a committee on education

has already been appointed. I understand that Rhode Island will, at the next annual meeting, appoint a similar committee.

New York has the word "education" in the name of the State federation, being called the "New York Federation of Women's Clubs and Educational Associations," and is thus pledged to consider the education of the State. At the last annual meeting, club exhibits were held of special lines of instruction. Some members had never seen a kindergarten in operation, while others were interested in the class exhibits for physical training and vocal culture. The federation works, in connection with the State Library Bureau, through a correspondence committee, which furnishes outlines for study clubs, and registers them for travelling libraries.

New Jersey has not appointed an educational committee, though the president writes that the federation as a whole is interested in educational work, especially in the organizing of free kindergartens; many of the clubs supporting these kindergartens until the school boards of the city and town, being convinced of their necessity, shall adopt them as a part of the school curriculum.

Pennsylvania has an educational committee, and will devote a session of the next annual meeting to the consideration of educational subjects.

Michigan will do the same.

The District of Columbia has appointed a committee which has presented a bill to both houses of Congress to incorporate free kindergartens as a part of the public school system of the District. The federation is confident of the passage of this bill.

Ohio has an educational committee, and has done good work in the formation of school libraries.

Illinois has a large educational committee, and the federation at large has been deeply interested in the public school system, the clubs contributing to the expenses of the Child's Study Congress, which was held in Chicago in May, and many of the clubs sending delegates. The Legislative Committee has had a bill before the Legislature to secure a compulsory educational law; and many of the clubs have been interested in the artistic decoration of the school-houses and securing playgrounds for the children.

The Federation of Minnesota has a committee on education, and will devote a session to the consideration of the subject at the annual meeting to be held at St. Paul. The State has also done good work in educating the public school children in civics and in the principles of village and town improvement associations, also in decoration of school-houses.

Wisconsin has appointed a committee, members representing each Congressional district in the State; at the annual meeting a session will be devoted to the educational needs of the State. The federation has presented a petition to the Governor, asking for the introduction of manual training into educational institutions devoted to the care of defective children, and has received a favorable response from His Excellency.

North Dakota, whose federation was formed in July, has also appointed a committee on education.

Iowa has appointed such a committee. The State as a whole has done good work by establishing circulating, travelling, and school libraries.

The Social Science Federation of Kansas has been interested in this subject for many years, and has a committee on education. At the last annual meeting an interesting symposium was held on this subject.

Missouri has a committee on education, and a most suggestive symposium was held on education at the last annual meeting in Kansas City. A committee was appointed to introduce a bill to the Legislature, making women eligible as members of school boards. The

bill failed to pass at the last session, but the federation is confident of passing the bill at the next.

Arkansas has just formed a State federation, and has already a committee on education, which is coöperating with the State Kindergarten Association to secure a normal school for kindergartners, supported by the State.

At the last meeting of the Kentucky Federation a committee on education was appointed. Women are already eligible as members of school boards in this State.

Tennessee has appointed a similar committee, which is doing good work.

Georgia has been most energetic. A bill is before the Legislature to open the State University to women. Reading classes are being established in the mountain districts through the coöperation of the women's clubs and the county superintendents of education. The subject of introducing manual training into the Georgia schools is being agitated, and the Atlanta Woman's Club, and several other clubs, are supporting free kindergartens until the school boards will consent to assume the control.

Colorado has a committee on education, and excellent work has been done in establishing night schools, kindergartens, with public baths in connection, especially about Denver. The kindergarten system is now incorporated as a part of the public school system of Denver. At the next annual meeting a session will be devoted to the consideration of the needs of the public schools.

At the last annual meeting of the Utah Federation, which I attended in Salt Lake City, the Committee on Education gave a suggestive and most encouraging report on the condition of the Utah schools. Three of the best papers on education I have ever listened to were given at the educational meeting. I must pause here to say that the general interest in education throughout the West is a hopeful sign of the times.

The Washington Federation devoted a session at the last annual meeting in June to the educational needs of the State.

All the State federations have sent out a programme of study of the science of education and, in many cases, of the State systems of education.

The coöperation of the women's clubs with university extension, as in Georgia, New York, and Michigan, is an excellent method of work, and has been successfully inaugurated in other States. The formation of night schools, especially in towns and villages where no appropriation is made by the school board, is very helpful. In Hinsdale, Ill., a night school of 250 pupils, which was organized by the woman's club of that place, is in successful operation. In the classes the history of the American Constitution, literature, writing, the English language, drawing, bookkeeping, and stenography are taught. Many of the pupils are foreigners, and are acquiring a knowledge of English in this manner.

The free night schools of New Orleans, founded by Miss Sophie B. Wright, a director of the General Federation, is another interesting movement. Miss Wright is at the head of night schools in which 600 men and boys receive instruction, and she has also established these schools in outlying parishes of the city. All the teaching is voluntary, with the exception of three. The Woman's Club of New Orleans, of which Miss Wright is president, intends to establish night schools of the same character for girls.

The work of the Literary Union of Portland is of great value, the members having secured many donations of photographs, pictures, and casts for the public schools.

The Denver Woman's Club has established night schools and also mothers' meetings in connection with the kindergartens, at which meetings programmes of music and other entertainment are provided, and a cup of tea served to the members.

Illinois, Nebraska, and Minnesota have already perfected arrangements to hold a joint

meeting in connection with the State Teachers' Association of these respective States, at which a meeting of the club-women will be held to consider coöperation with the Teachers' Associations.

This is a brief statement of the work thus far accomplished by the State federations.

Up to the present time the great educational forces of the world, of which the women's club movement is but one, have been more or less devoting their energies to specialization in order to secure the best possible results, and to avail themselves of the new avenues of research and of knowledge which are being so rapidly opened to the general public. The great question before educators now is coördination, and not only for educators, but also for the world, and no association can afford to separate itself from others. It is vain for the women's clubs to inaugurate any system of educational work in which they have not the coöperation of the State systems of education and of the teachers themselves. The consideration of the scientific and technical phases of the educational question must be left with specialists. The coöperation which is desirable and possible for women's clubs to extend is largely outside of the purely scientific aspect of the subject, and can with propriety take the form of bettering the conditions, sanitary and otherwise, of the rural schools.

Parents' and teachers' associations are profitable, and, in my opinion, are a better form of organization than mother and child study classes, for there is a gospel of paternity as well as one of maternity. Mrs. Bourland, of Pontiac, Ill., has organized most successful parents' leagues, in which fathers, mothers, and teachers coöperate. She will be glad to send an account of her work to any one who desires it.

Wherever women are not eligible for membership on school boards, the State federation can secure the passage of a law rendering them eligible. There is certainly no place where a woman is better fitted to serve than on a school board. The educational systems of all institutions for defective, delinquent, and neglected children should receive the attention of the State federations. The tendency is to abandon the defective child to the tender mercies of the State; and by the coöperation of the federation with the officers of the institution much can be done to insure the future of these wards of the State. The officers of the State institutions, have in my experience, always been glad to coöperate with responsible associations for the good of their charities.

ELLEN M. HENROTIN.

The growth of the General Federation cannot be better exemplified than by the fact that the suggestion to Sorosis that a "call" should be issued for an anniversary convention which laid its foundations, was not made to that body until the third Monday in January, preceding the March (1889) in which it occurred, and which brought together to form its basis sixty-five local clubs.

The preparations for the fourth biennial, to be held in Denver, in June, 1898, were begun in April, 1897, fifteen months before the event, and the invitations will bring together the representatives of nearly one thousand clubs and twenty-eight federated States. At the early date mentioned, twelve local committees were formed in Denver to act in conjunction with the executive of the General Federation. These local committees represent: Bureau of Information, Mrs. John L. McNeil, chairman; Programme, Mrs. George L. Scott, chairman; Credentials, Mrs. Wm. H. Kistler, chairman; Finance, Mrs. Owen Le Fevre, chairman; Transportation, Mrs. J. M.

Walker, chairman; Entertainment, Mrs. W. G. Fisher, chairman; Music, Miss Ida Miller, chairman; Hotels, Miss Laura Parsons, chairman; Press, Miss M. J. Reynolds, chairman; Decoration, Mrs. F. J. Mott, chairman; Excursions, Mrs. T. C. Chase, chairman; Badges, Mrs. J. B. Belford, chairman.

* The features for the programme of the biennial, as arranged by the local committees, include addresses of welcome by the Governor of the State, the Mayor of the city, and by Mrs. E. M. Ashley, speaking for the club-women of the State, and Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, for those of the city.

The Broadway Theatre will be the convention hall. This is the largest theatre in the city, and has a seating capacity of sixteen hundred and fifty. It is under the same roof with the Metropole, and across the street from the Brown Palace, the first hotels in the city. The music for the biennial will include vocal, instrumental, and chorus work. Prof. W. J. Whiteman will give exhibitions of his methods in training the voices of the public school children, on Children's Day, and there will be music on that occasion also by the children's orchestra, conducted by Miss Du Pre. The Tuesday Musical Club, the Athene Musical Society, the Woman's Club Chorus, and the Junior Chorus (the last composed of the daughters of the members of the Woman's Club) will all appear. These organizations are all formed of women. The Bureau of Information will fit up a room in close proximity to the auditorium, where ladies will be in constant attendance to give any desired information or assistance which may be in their power. In this room a post-office will be established, where mail will be delivered twice a day. Members of clubs, composed of young girls and young married ladies, have been chosen to serve as ushers and pages. One of the striking features of the decorative scheme will be a profusion of the famous wild flowers of the Rockies, sent in fresh from the hills each morning.

A great feature of the biennial, organized by the Committee on Excursions, is one to be given on June 25th to all the delegates. This is locally called "Around the Loop." It is one of the typical mountain excursions of Colorado, embracing, within a few hours' ride of Denver, some of the finest and most characteristic scenery in the State. Luncheon will be taken at a mining camp.

A sunset ride has also been arranged to Elitch's Gardens. Mrs. Elitch, the owner of the gardens, will throw it open to the visitors, clad in its most attractive guise, and rendered more enjoyable by a fine band of music. The North Side Woman's Club, the second largest club in the city, will hold a reception and serve refreshments in the garden during this visit. As Denver is justly proud of her street transportation systems, and as the beauties of the city are chiefly to be seen in this manner, these rides will be a distinct addition to the pleasure of the visit to Denver, if the time be spared for them.

GENERAL FEDERATION

The Biennial Committee, Anna W. Longstreth, Eva P. Moore, Frances M. Ford, have issued the following preliminary programme for the fourth biennial.

Programme

Monday Evening, June 20, 1898, at 8 o'clock,
Board meeting.

Tuesday Morning, June 21, at 11 o'clock,
Council meeting.

Tuesday Afternoon, 2 to 3.30,

1. Conference of State presidents, in Brown Palace Hotel.
MRS. HENROTIN, chairman.
 2. Conference of State chairmen of correspondence, in Denver Club House.
MRS. BREED, chairman.
- Joint conference of the above, 3.30 to 5, in Denver Club House.
MRS. HENROTIN, chairman.
- Topics for discussion :
1. The Relation of General and State Federations.
 2. The Coördination of Educational Forces.
 3. The Income of General and State Federations.

Tuesday Evening, at 8,
Social meeting of the board and council.

Wednesday Morning, June 22d, at 10, in the Theatre,
MRS. HENROTIN, chairman.

Addresses of welcome by
THE GOVERNOR OF COLORADO ;
THE MAYOR OF DENVER ;
MRS. E. M. ASHLEY, for the State ;
MRS. S. S. PLATT, for the Woman's Club of Denver.

Response by MRS. HENROTIN.
Report of recording secretary.
Report of corresponding secretary.
Report of treasurer.
Report of auditor.

Wednesday Afternoon, 2.30 to 5, in Denver Woman's Club,
The Home.

Wednesday Afternoon, 2.30 to 5, in Broadway Theatre,
Phases of Economic Work in Clubs.

Wednesday Evening, at 8,
Education.
MISS ANNIE LAWS, chairman.
Four addresses.
Music.

Thursday Morning, June 23d, 9.30 to 12.30,
Civic Clubs and Village Improvement Associations,
MRS. CORNELIUS STEVENSON, chairman.

GENERAL FEDERATION

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- Thursday Afternoon, 2.30 to 4, in Broadway Theatre,**
The Library Movement in the United States.
- Thursday Afternoon, 2.30 to 4, in the Denver Woman's Club,**
MRS. HENROTIN, chairman. The Press.
- Thursday Afternoon, 4 to 6,**
Receptions in private homes.
- Thursday Evening, at 8, in Broadway Theatre,**
MRS. C. P. BARNES, chairman.
Uncut Leaves. Music.
- Friday Morning, June 24th, 9.30 to 12.30, in Broadway Theatre,**
MISS MARGARET J. EVANS, chairman. Educational conference.
- Friday Afternoon, 2.30 to 5, in Theatre,**
The Industrial Problem as it Affects Women and Children.
- Friday Evening, at 8, in Theatre,**
MRS. ALICE IVES BREED, chairman. Art and Utility.
- Saturday Morning and Afternoon, June 25th,**
Excursion.
- Saturday Evening, at 8, in Theatre,**
MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE, chairman. Folk Songs of America.
- Sunday Morning, June 26th,**
Pulpits of the city churches occupied by women appointed by the Biennial Committee.
- Sunday Afternoon, at 3,**
Children's meeting: Two addresses and music by the children.
- Sunday Afternoon, 4.30 to 6, in one of the Churches,**
Vesper service.
- Sunday Evening, at 8, in Theatre,**
MRS. E. LONGSTREET, chairman.
Three addresses on "The Spiritual Significance of Organization," and national songs.
- Monday Morning, June 27th, at 9.30, in Theatre,**
MRS. HENROTIN, chairman.
Report of Nominating Committee.
Election.
New business.
- Monday Afternoon, 2.30 to 5, in Denver Woman's Club,**
MRS. CYRUS E. PERKINS, chairman. Informal conference on Club Methods.
- Monday Afternoon, 3 to 5, in Theatre,**
Conference of literary clubs in three departments:
Literature, Travel and History Classes, and Current Events.
- Monday Evening, at 8, in Theatre,**
Address by MRS. HENROTIN.
Introduction of new officers.
Resolutions.
Social meeting.

The Denver Local Board is composed of—president, Mrs. James B. Grant ; recording secretary, Mrs. A. M. Welles ; corresponding secretary, Mrs. John L. McNeil ; treasurer, Mrs. Owen E. Le Fevre.

The administrative and executive work, local and general, connected with one biennial gathering is enormous, and demands an expenditure of time and energy which, if not fruitful of results, would condemn the movement to extinction. But so far, through coördination, and unity of purpose towards the highest aims, results have fully justified the cost, and for the first time present to the world the spectacle of a womanhood united for the furtherance of social, ethical, and educational ideals.



Foreign Clubs

FIVE foreign countries are now represented in the General Federation of Women's Clubs: East Africa, South Australia, West Australia, South America, England, and India. The latest affiliated represents a small group of women missionaries at a mission station in Silinda, East Africa. These women desired to form a little club for literary exercise, and to keep themselves in touch with the intellectual efforts and progressive ideas of the Western world of women. The simple organization was effected, and application made to the General Federation for admission to that body. This was cordially granted, and thus the golden link was formed that unites Africa to America. The president is Mrs. F. W. Bates. The charter membership was four women.

A very interesting club is the Girls' Literary Society, of Adelaide, South Australia. The president is Miss Catherine Spence; the secretary, Miss Lilian S. Meag.

The latest addition is the Eclectic Alumnæ Club, of Santiago, Chili. The president of this club is Mrs. Adelaide W. La Fetra; the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Camela Britton.

Of these organizations we have no details. The records of others will be found interesting.

INDIA

"Tell them the world was made for women also." **Bombay Sorosis.**—On July 25, 1889, a notice appeared in the *Times and Gazette* of Bombay, India, inviting the young ladies of the city, of all classes and nationalities, to meet at the Elphinstone High School for the purpose of forming an organization of women, similar to those existing in England and America. The invitation emanated from Emma Brainerd-Ryder, M.D., a New York physician, who had accompanied Ramabai, the celebrated high caste Hindu woman, whose work in this country is well remembered. On her arrival in India Dr. Ryder found the barrier of caste a constant obstacle to any work for women in that country, and determined to make an effort to remove it by calling together such

native forces as could be induced to unite with a foreign element in their own behalf.

The simple little announcement had the effect of a bombshell thrown into the circles of Indian society. Dr. Brainerd-Ryder received hundreds of letters imploring her to abandon so wild and reckless an idea. Some of these were from missionaries who declared it impossible to oppose the spirit of caste, and others from educated and advanced residents of Bombay, who said that men, even the most liberal, would not allow the women to appear.

Dr. Ryder had, however, the courage of her conviction, and the meeting took place at the time appointed. To her surprise and pleasure, forty-seven women, the majority natives, were found willing to listen to the proposed plan, and a temporary organization was formed. Thirty of those present left their names as charter members of the society.

On August 10th a second meeting was held at the Alexandria Girls' School, and the club was regularly organized, with Dr. Ryder as the president, and Miss Serene Manockjee Cursetjee as secretary.

There were many lions in the path of the new organization. The endeavor to find a room for a meeting place was everywhere met by refusal, until the trustees of the Alexandria Girls' School voted to give the new society a room, rent free, for one year.

An unknown friend also sent a donation to pay for the use of a piano for a year, and another gentleman, Mr. Ardasir Framjee, a donation of sixteen rupees as a friendly contribution.

The name was chosen by the club membership from several suggested by the president, and occasioned the usual silly comments and attempts at wit in the newspapers.

From the date of organization the club held its meetings regularly every two weeks, strictly in accordance with parliamentary rules.

Short papers were read upon given subjects, and then debated. The first papers were from educated native women, and by request of Dr. Ryder, told the stories of distinguished women rulers, benefactors, and poets, of their own nationality. Singing and instrumental music formed a large part of each programme.

The report of a meeting in January is typical of many:

After listening to the reading of the minutes of the last meeting and the treasurer's report, a song was well sung by Parsee young ladies. The lesson on parliamentary law was given, the members writing down questions and answers. Miss Devonshire played a piano solo in an artistic manner, and Miss B. F. Mirza read a well-prepared essay on the subject of the month, "Character-Building"; after which Miss Gostling recited "Maud Muller"



CHARTER MEMBERSHIP, BOMBAY SOROSIS

delightfully. Miss Hormusjee read an excellent essay on the topic, with selections from several poets.

Miss Millet, in an earnest speech, closed the discussion of the subject (thirty-four essays having been prepared and read on this subject). She said character-building was every-day work, and urged the members to begin by having pure thoughts, and quoted from King Solomon's proverbs, "*As a man thinketh in his heart so is he.*" She recommended the reading of books that would make us wiser and better, and that great care should be given to the words we speak. Idle, silly, gossiping conversation was to be most carefully avoided. They should be careful of their associates, punctual in duties, and concluded by saying she considered the Sorosis Club one of the grandest helps to these ends, and was much gratified at the interest the young ladies were taking in the club.

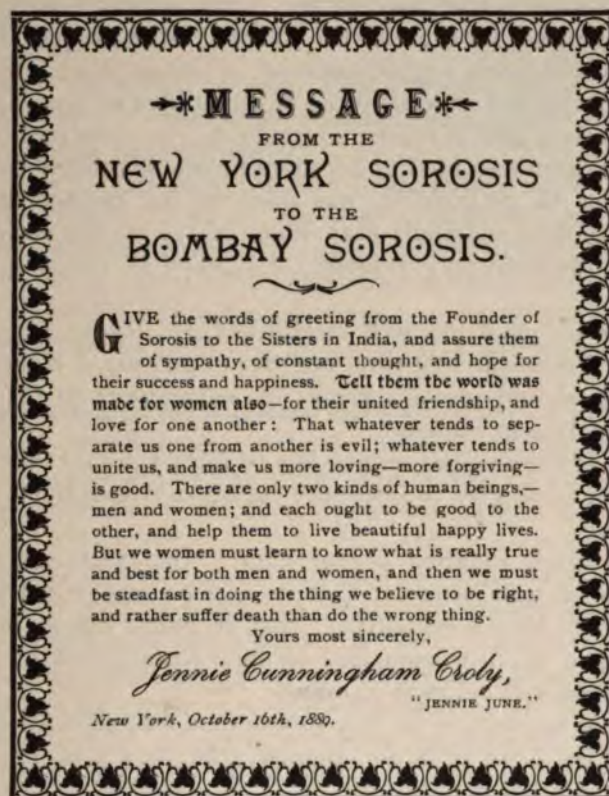
At the last two meetings a decided improvement had been noticed in the reading of the articles that are now presented to the club. The young ladies are paying special attention to clearness and distinctness in reading. A class has been formed which is having lessons each week in voice culture and the rudimentary principles of elocution.

Dr. Ryder asked how many had tried to find the answer to the question given out at the last meeting, "What queen was crowned with all due ceremony *after her death?*" A large number had tried, and several answers were given; no one, however, had found the exact queen, and Dr. Ryder said "It was Ines de Castro, Queen of Pedro I. of Portugal." The question for the next meeting was now read: "What king sat upon his throne for 350 years?" followed by a paper upon "Women in Ancient Egypt."

A quarterly sociable was a pleasant feature of the first year. The first was given to the club by a resident European, Mrs. Nora Scott. The second took the form of a little concert given by the club members to their friends. The third was a very fine reception given by a native lady, Mrs. Jamseje Tata, and the fourth, the first anniversary celebration.

In the meantime the new club was growing. It had received letters of congratulation from Frances Power Cobbe, who sent, for the library which had been started, a copy of her "Duties of Women"; Annie M. L. Jarvis, the naturalist, wrote from Scotland; Mrs. Harrison from the executive mansion in the United States; the "mother" club, Sorosis, through its then president, Mrs. J. M. Lozier, and one from Mrs. Croly, an extract from which was made the "magna charta," and framed upon the walls of the club-room. An extracted line from this letter became the motto: "Tell them the world was made for women also."

A song, adopted as a club song, was written by the Rev. Dr. Rankin, of Washington, D. C., and sent to Dr. Ryder with words of encouragement.



MAGNA CHARTA, BOMBAY SOROSIS

In 1891 Bombay Sorosis had grown to two hundred members. A few of these were "corresponding" members, Europeans, native purdah, or others, living out of the city, or not allowed to go to the meetings. To these, printed reports and a quarterly résumé of club work were sent. Ladies visiting Bombay were often guests.

Quarterly social gatherings were instituted, called "at homes," and at the second of these her excellency, Lady Harris, and Mrs. Brown Potter were present, the latter contributing to the entertainment.

A reading-room had been established, which was an important adjunct of the effort to bring different kinds of women together. Here, without apparent intention, the Parsee, the Euphrasian, the Mohammedan, the Christian, and other representatives of castes and classes could meet without prearrangement, and break the ice of ages by gradual and insensible process.

A number of committees had been formed, and a concerted effort made

to interest child-women, who only, in the rarest instances, had considered it possible to think or act for themselves. These "little women" had no rights, no amusements, and rarely any educational opportunities. Their enjoyment of music, recitations, and especially the dawning idea of participation by the exercise of their own gifts in these performances, was most pathetic and interesting to women born and bred under more favorable conditions.

The work, as far as possible, was done by the membership. At each meeting three or four members read short essays on the various sides of a given subject, and the freest expression of opinion in the simplest form was encouraged.

As soon as the club was well established, Dr. Ryder began to lay the foundation of a Technical Institute, in order to provide a training in simple industries which should prove a means of self-support to the helpless and much-suppressed Indian woman.

The object of the association was less to form a school than to induce all schools for women and girls to introduce classes or departments for technical-training purposes.

The constitution required urgent effort "that technical education be introduced into all girls' schools; that no girl be recognized as sufficiently trained who cannot be self-supporting; that technical classes or departments in schools be open to all women, and all instruction given on the principle of non-interference with religion or caste."

The religious opposition to this programme was silenced by the strong endorsement of the Lord Bishop of Bombay, the Very Rev. Th. Dalhoff, S.J., vicar-general, and other dignitaries.

The department that succeeded the best was bookkeeping, in which quite a number were sufficiently instructed to reap practical benefit.

Much of the difficulty which confronted any movement for the elevation of women in India came from the total helplessness of the women themselves. The dues of Bombay Sorosis were only one rupee per year (about thirty cents). But for years not one-third of the members were able to pay it. Some of them had never had as much money as this in their whole lives at their own disposal, their fathers being only willing to expend money upon them to get them married. Books, dictionaries, maps, charts, globes, all the common appliances of a primary school, were unknown to the majority of Indian women; and Dr. Ryder made an heroic effort to have these elementary aids supplied as a basis for educational effort.

Dr. Ryder's further labors resulted in the formation of other clubs and educational organizations in different parts of India and Australia. Her work, though falling short of its intention, has left an indelible mark upon the condition of the women of those countries, for it was the first attempt to

place them upon a broad, humane basis, and unite them by the tie of their womanhood alone.

It is a little curious that the first general protest against the practice imposed upon such Hindu widows as resisted self-immolation, of shaving their heads, came from the Bombay barbers.

The Guzerati barbers were the first to announce that they would shave no more widows' heads, or aid in imposing upon them a symbol of degradation and perpetual widowhood not enjoined in the Hindu scriptures.

There were five hundred of this class, and others joined them. To many of them this action meant the loss of a significant part of their income, and was a most important factor in the formation of a public opinion in defence of the widows.

The Musaeus School for Buddhist Girls was started by Dr. Emma Brainerd-Ryder during a visit made to the Island of Ceylon in 1893. It was an enlargement or outgrowth of the work already done in Bombay, India, but took a more strictly educational form in accordance with the necessities and environment.

The conditions of what might be called the "little women" here were, if anything, more wretched than in more enlightened Bombay, and the most pressing need was the most elementary form of education.

The school was established as an orphanage as well as a school, in order that girls who had lost their parents or husbands might find a home where they could also be taught. English, as well as Singhalese, in all their branches, was the basis of instruction. Needle-work, lace-making, embroidery, cutting and making of clothing, cooking, housework, and music were all taught as self-supporting departments.

Out of the first twenty-nine resident pupils, twenty paid the small sum charged for board and tuition; the other nine had to be provided for; and although help was received from generous Australian, English, and Indian friends, the struggle was an arduous one. Among the contributors to the school was Dr. Alice B. Stockham, of Chicago, and Mrs. Massingbird, of London, but the most numerous contributors, though smallest in amount, were native men.

The principal of the school, Mrs. M. M. Higgins, has continued in charge, built up and maintained its character, and established its social and club features. It is, like Bombay Sorosis, a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; and like that first literary society of women in the far East, stretches its arms for help and encouragement to the free and happy women of the Western world.

AUSTRALIA

Karrakatta Club, of Perth, West Australia, was founded November, 1894, by Dr. E. B. Ryder, with thirty-five foundation members. The object is "to bring into one working body the women of the community for mutual improvement and social intercourse." Since its formation the membership has more than doubled. The club has now about eighty-five women, organized under four departments: literary, hygienic, artistic, legal and educational. Each of these departments is presided over by a chairman, who has the weekly meetings in charge successively, supplying, with the aid of her committee, and other members of the club, the papers and other exercises which constitute the programme.

The work is mainly original and of practical value. The subjects are intelligently chosen and discussed with vigor and fairness. The president's address, at a recent annual meeting, refers to one feature of the club work in the following terms: "With reference to the debates which followed at several of the meetings upon the reading of the papers, or arose upon some matter submitted to the club, you will remember with pleasure, as I do, the animation with which they often were conducted, and testify with me to the possession evinced by the speakers in a rather remarkable degree—considering that we are still in the early days of club life—of that all-essential spirit of 'give and take,' without which no 'clubableness' is possible. During the past club year twenty-four members have furnished original papers, and twenty-seven others have entered into debate. This is a very fair record for a club still in its infancy. It is just two years since we were stimulated into making the great plunge into club life by our founder, Dr. Ryder. By sheer force of her faith in us, she compelled us to believe in ourselves, and it was as a sign of our gratitude to her, and a very fitting tribute, that she was unanimously elected honorary president of the club. To her we are, and we ever shall be, most deeply indebted, for there is no greater kindness which one human being can show to another than that of helping him to realize himself—that is to say, his duties, his privileges, the meaning and requirements of his varied nature, and the path which he should pursue in order to give to his individuality its best possible expression. Women stand in special need of such help. Educated to acceptance, the demand has been made upon her lower powers to the exclusion of the higher gifts which are hers also by Divine right, and the result is a nature unduly developed and taxed in some directions, stunted and dwarfed in many."

In reference to hygienic conditions, the address continued:

"Want of money to remedy the insanitary conditions of our towns is the

cry, but it is not a true cry. Were all citizens—men and women alike—to insist upon the absolute necessity for cleanliness of living, the towns would be cleansed. It is women's quite as much as men's dull and unintelligent acquiescence which is at the root of the evil which has cost many lives, and bids fair to cost more. The sooner women realize the fact that they, too, are in fault, the better, and by every means of influence they possess, impress upon the public mind the wickedness of that uncleanness, which, since it is a direct violation of the Divine laws of health, bears in its train the death penalty."

The officers of Karrakatta are: President, Lady Onslow; vice-president, Mrs. Hensman; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Cowan; recording secretary, Mrs. Alfred Hassell; treasurer, Miss Ferguson.

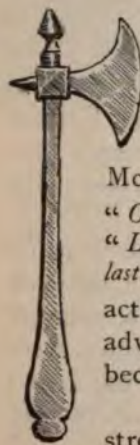
The chairman of the literary department is Mrs. Burt; hygienic, Mrs. Walter James; artistic, Mrs. Willis; legal and educational, Mrs. Hensman. The dues of Karrakatta are one guinea (five dollars) per annum; half this sum to country members. If a member is absent for a year, her dues are remitted during that time, but she retains her membership. Members are admitted by a majority vote; one blackball in seven being required for a rejection. The elections are annual by ballot, but officers and chairmen of departments are eligible for reëlection.

ENGLAND

The Pioneer Club of London, England, was founded in May, 1892, by two women, Mrs. Massingberd and Mrs. Headlam. Mrs. Massingberd, a woman of wealth, culture, and possessed of great energy, became the president, and Mrs. Headlam, the honorary secretary. The object of the club was "coöperation in any movement for the advancement of women, and to promote fellowship among women themselves." The original committee out of which the club grew contained the names of Lady Harberton, Mrs. Eva McLaren, Mrs. Rose Mary Crawshay, Miss Shannon Crawford, Mrs. "One and all." Oscar Wilde, Mrs. Frank Snoad, and others equally "Love thyself well known." last."

The sole qualification for membership was an active personal interest in woman's social, educational, and political advancement. Each member, on joining, received a number, and became known by it.

Among the earliest members were Mrs. Morgan Browne, so strongly identified with the Liberal movement and the labor party in



England; Lady Adela Larking, for many years lady in waiting to the Duchess of Connaught, and Miss Conybeare, sister of Mr. Conybeare, M.P.

It was the president's boast that she had "brought together women of all types and kinds, and made them see the good in their opposites." This is the original recipe for a woman's club.

The club was organized with committees, and immediately established a home. It finally settled in a lovely old Queen Anne house, at 22 Bruton Street, W., where it created a delightful centre of social and active intellectual life.



PRESIDENT'S ROOM, PIONEER CLUB, LONDON, ENGLAND

Its first anniversary was celebrated by the issue of a Pioneer book, which consisted of contributions by the Pioneers, that had an interest apart from its personal character, and as a literary production, is beyond the average. It was illustrated with portraits of leading members.

"In great things unity; in small things liberty; in all things charity." The literary and social features of the club were its evening debates, its afternoon teas, its freedom in discussion, and its open hospitality. In 1895 it had grown to a membership of 500 women, many of them brilliant and notable, all of them representative. Gentlemen were allowed as guests of members from 4 to 6 P.M. upon "tea" days, and were very quiet and decorous. They were also occasionally invited to take part in a debate.

The club grew more upon the lines of clubs of women in America than most of the women's clubs in England, and became affiliated with the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1893.

The Pioneer Club stands for so much in this country, as well as in London, that the death of the president, Mrs. Massingberd, who had been its inspiration, threatened its continued existence. The club life was, however, well rooted.



DRAWING-ROOM, PIONEER CLUB, LONDON, ENGLAND

The Pioneers bravely rallied, and though obliged to give up their quaint old house in Bruton Street, are, in some respects, placed on a broader and truer club basis.

"Love thyself last."

The Pioneer is no longer a proprietary club. It is a member's club, backed by a guarantee fund which represents the majority of the nearly six hundred women who constitute its membership. Lady Elizabeth Cust is the treasurer, and a very admirable one. The secretary is still Lady Teresa Hamilton.

The club has moved from Bruton Street to 5 Grafton Street, Piccadilly, where it is established in beautiful rooms. There are five standing committees—finance, election, debates, social, and library. Each committee represents from twelve to fourteen well-known names. On the Finance Committee are the names of Miss Massingberd, Hon. Mrs. A. Pelham, Mrs. Brownlow, Miss Caroline Cust, Mrs. Chester, and Miss Whitehead. On the Election Committee we find Mrs. Stanton Blatch, Hon. Mrs. Crichton; on the Debates Committee Mrs. S. Garrett, Mrs. Holroyde Chaplin; and on others, Miss Imray, Miss Doudney, and Mrs. Hamilton Synge. The honorary librarian is Miss Carter.

The subscription is £3 3s. per annum; for country members and professional women, £2 2s.; and the entrance fees, £3 3s. and £2 2s. respectively. Members resident abroad during an entire year are continued on the list of members on payment of £1 1s.; and foreign members, not resident in England, are admitted on the same terms, and enjoy all the privileges of full membership during a stay in London. Members may bring one friend to the debates held at the club, but no member may bring the same friend more than once during the same month, husbands excepted. Members may obtain tickets of invitation for their friends to the evening "at homes" by applying for them previously in writing to the Social Committee. Members have no liability beyond their annual subscriptions. No member can make use of the club address on any circular letter, whether written or printed, or in any advertisement.



"SILENCE" ROOM, PIONEER CLUB, LONDON, ENGLAND



AFTERNOON TEA, PIONEER CLUB, LONDON, ENGLAND

Each Pioneer wears a small axe, the club badge, and is known by a number, in lieu of her name, as a symbol of perfect equality. Entering the club-rooms, you find mottoes graven here and there—"They say. What say they? What matters what they say?" Mrs. Massingberd's motto, "Love thyself last," was inscribed on the floral tribute laid on her grave, whilst the Pioneer axe and the club ribbons were put with her cremated remains in the casket.

The club greatly rejoices over the preservation of its name and life, and believes that it is now established on strong and permanent foundations. As the first club organized upon a broad basis, and given to a generous hospitality in word and deed, it must always take the first place in the hearts and memories of those who have been sharers in its good things.

OTHER LONDON CLUBS.—London has now many clubs of women, all officered and controlled solely by women, but partaking more or less, in their beginnings, of the proprietary character and permanent "honorary" leadership, which is a feature of all English organized work.

The Somerville, the first club, was organized in 1878 upon a very democratic basis. A well-stocked reading-room and free-lending library have been features of this club, and are still. It has also a weekly lecture followed by debate, and has doubled its entrance fee and annual dues, which at first were only half a guinea.

The Writers' Club antedated by a few months the Pioneer.

It began very simply over an aerated bread and lunch shop, but its first president was John Strange Winter (Mrs. Stannard); its honorary president is Princess Christian, and its able and faithful honorary secretary Miss Routledge, B.A., well known in the United States. For women journalists and workers in illustrative art, the Writers' Club met a very urgent want, and three years ago, with increased funds, it migrated to more roomy premises at Hastings House, Norfolk Street, Strand.

Except for the weekly Friday teas, there has never been any luxury or social display to characterize this club, but the lunch well served at a moderate price, the convenient little writing-room, and the dressing-room, are all boons for the journalist who has no time to make her homeward way between the attendance at one function and the chronicling of another. The subscription for town members is one guinea, with a similar amount entrance fee. The club now numbers about three hundred women. The afternoon teas are the chief and a very delightful social feature. Members are hostess by turns, and supplement the provision made for entertainment by potted plants and flowers, and any addition they choose to make to the refreshments. Members may invite guests by paying a small sum (three pence) for "guest's ticket."



THE WRITERS' CLUB ROOM

The University Club in Maddox Street is, as its name implies, open only to university women, registered medical practitioners of the United Kingdom, and women students who have passed the first professional examination of any medical corporation. With the same fee as the Writers' Club, it has an equal number of members.

The Victoria Club for Nurses is very recent. It is situated in Southampton Street, Strand. For these hard-working professional women, with their



MRS. WYNFORD PHILLIPPS,
Founder and President Grosvenor Crescent Club and Institute

very scanty leisure, it seems particularly agreeable and desirable, but is too young yet to have any history.

Purely social clubs are: The "Green Park" Club, Grafton Street; the "Empress," Dover Street; the "Alexandra," Grosvenor Street; the "New Victorian," Sackville Street; the "Ladies' County Club," Hanover Square; the "Ilchester," Kensington, and the "Sandringham," Old Bond Street.

The Green Park is hardly four years old, but the members number nearly five hundred, and include the Princess Christian, and Princess Victoria of Schleswig-Holstein, and Princess Aribert of Anhalt. The entrance fee and the annual subscription are five guineas and four guineas each, the highest

figure among the women's clubs, except the Alexandra and Empress, which have precisely the same condition of membership; namely, no lady is eligible who has not been, or could not be, admitted to the Queen's drawing-rooms.

The Empress, opened in the summer of 1897—a jubilee commemoration in its way—already boasts of over two thousand members, all of whom belong to the upper ranks of society. The club-rooms are beautifully furnished and thoroughly luxurious; there is a delightful winter garden, stables, and cycle houses at the disposal of members, seventeen bed-rooms, a music room, and all the usual reception apartments.

A novel feature is the annual payment of a shilling royalty on each subscription to the Prince of Wales' Hospital Fund.

The Grosvenor Crescent Club of London is the latest formed of the London clubs. It is the club side of the "Women's Institute," recently organized on a very broad educational basis by Mrs. Wynford Phillipps.

The institute has many of the features of the "Women's Educational and Industrial Unions" of America, but some original ideas of its own. The club is under the same leadership and housed in the same luxurious premises in the Grosvenor Crescent. The object of the club is to furnish a social centre for women interested in literature, art, science, philanthropy, and social questions of the day. Both club and institute are to a certain extent proprietary, but very liberal provision is made for the extension of a many-sided work, and for an international membership.

The institute comprises a reference library, a room for meetings (of a business and social character), a general information bureau, an association of women lecturers, a women's benefit society and statistical society (having special reference to women's work). Special arrangements are made so that American, colonial, and foreign friends interested in women's work may join the institute at the annual subscription of half a guinea without entrance fee. Such members will be entitled to ask twelve questions, free of charge, and post free, from the general information bureau; will receive the transactions of the institute and the monthly and annual reports, and when they come to England will be eligible to present themselves for election as full members of the institute on producing a letter of introduction.

State and Local Work

*"The fruit of all
these is left growing,
and to grow."*

IN looking over ground with which we are familiar, the first thing that strikes us is the improvements that might be made—the spaces not filled, or inadequately occupied; in fine, the shortcomings rather than the merits of the picture.

No one knows better than the writer the many occasions for criticism of this kind that will be found in the following pages. Nor can they be altogether or satisfactorily explained. Some of the reasons will, however, suggest themselves to women who have endeavored to procure the data for even one club or group of clubs, or a simple list for record of membership in one State federation. The first correspondence in regard to this history consisted of six hundred typewritten letters sent to chairmen of State correspondence and presidents of clubs, so far as known or on the list of the General Federation in October, 1896. Since then an average of ten per day have been written and answered in addition to postal acknowledgments.

Two causes operate to make a work of this kind exceedingly difficult; one is the constant change of local and State officers; the other, the difference in their point of view. One will make the record of a small club fill a volume; another will write the record of a State federation on two sheets of note paper. Mere lists and catalogues have been avoided as much as possible, or only used when detailed record was not forthcoming; partly because these exist, partly because the constant changes compel a yearly issue of such lists by the State and General Federations, as well as the local clubs.

The plan has been to find and make as complete a record as possible of beginnings—of development, of influence, of growth—towards results. Nothing has been done as a finality. "The fruit of all these is left growing, and to grow."

But it is not the growing plants and cultivated grounds that disturb the historian. It is the gaps and waste places which she knows exist—though she has not seen them and does not know what to put in them, but which will be seen—and might have been filled with records equal to any if the chronicler had only been put in possession of them. Let her say, in conclusion, that she has done—with conscience and sense of religious duty—all that one person could in the time and space allotted; and that her gratitude to those who have aided to bring about such measure of success as may have been attained, is warm and deep.

The Clubs of Arkansas

A DISTINCTIVE club movement, looking to the intellectual and social advancement of woman, was not made in Arkansas until 1883, although from its earliest days the culture and refinement of its citizens found within their small circles and around hospitable boards that intellectual companionship which to-day seeks expression in what we call "club life."

Arkansas is a comparatively young State, and many of those who identified themselves with its beginning still live, and discuss over their tea cups the latest news, whether of literature, politics, philanthropy, music, science, or art.

The Columbian Exposition with its congresses of women, antedated by the Women's Congresses of Paris in 1889, opened the eyes of many to the possibilities of organization in a sex so well equipped by natural gifts to conserve and stimulate all that is best in human life, and eliminate the baser elements.

Columbian clubs were formed all over the State of Arkansas, and in this way, by fairs and enthusiastic labor, the women raised the funds for the furnishing of the beautiful State building at the World's Fair.

After the Little Rock Columbian Club had accomplished its work, seven members were appointed as perpetual Columbian Art Memorial commissioners, to preserve the relics of the great exposition. These were Mrs. W. C. Ratcliffe, president; Mrs. Frederick Hanger, secretary; Mrs. James Fones, Mrs. Edwin Bentley, Mrs. Jennie Beauchamp, Mrs. C. S. Gray, and Mrs. R. A. Edgerton, treasurer.

These women established memorial rooms in the City Park building, on the walls of which are hung the exquisite painted tapestries which adorned the rotunda of the Arkansas building; furnished the rooms with rugs, pianos, chairs, and draperies used in Chicago and at the Cotton States Exposition at Atlanta, Ga. Within these rooms from time to time they propose to place articles of historic value, and thus form a museum of no inconsiderable interest, evidencing the patriotism and labors of the women of Arkansas. To the women's State boards for both the World's Fair, 1893, and Atlanta Exposition, 1895, great credit is due for success attained.

Organization effects that which the individual, alone, finds impossible. The thought of forming a woman's club for general improvement was entertained like the angel of old, "unawares," and became a blessing to the entertainers as well as the community and State.

This organized and recognized club work had been preceded by groups and classes for reading and study, of which the "Pacaha" was one of the oldest and most representative. It was formed by two young ladies, Miss Sanders and Miss Redford-Neal, both just home from school, who agreed to adopt a course of reading, compare notes, and exchange ideas.

It was not long before they realized that the assistance and pleasure they derived from this plan would be greatly increased if they secured the coöperation of women of matured minds and recognized culture. Accordingly, in January, 1888, they sought and obtained the aid of a few married ladies, who readily fell in with their plans.

They called a meeting, made an informal organization, and a plan of work was outlined. It was decided to meet once a week at the residence of some member, the hostess presiding, and the two young girls acting alternately as secretary.

At the second meeting there was an increased membership, and it was decided to make "Woman: her Mental Endowments, her Place in the World, her Duties to Society and the Home," the subject of study. Each member was required to write an essay on the subject for the day, to be read as appointed by the presiding officer. This plan of original work has been strictly adhered to during the entire existence of the club, and original articles has been one of the most important features in the development of the members.

For a considerable time there was no constitution or by-laws.

The duty of the presiding officer to preserve order and discipline conflicted with her duties as hostess. This was found detrimental to the interests of the work, and a leader was elected, at first for three months, then for six, and finally a president and secretary for a year.

After this the various presidents arranged the programmes for each week, and the secretaries laboriously wrote them out for every member. But in October, 1890, a more formal organization was effected. Quotations were given in answer to roll-call, a motto was adopted from Emerson: "Method, patience, self-trust, perseverance, love, desire of knowledge, passion of truth."

A name was also chosen, the Philomathic Club. This was retained until the fall of 1892, when it was changed for a happier one, the Pacaha Club—Pacaha being the name of an Indian village formerly occupying the present site of Helena.

The work had now (1890) become much more systematic and thorough. A broader field was undertaken in the line of English and German history and literature. The club year was from October to June, and in 1890-91 the time was devoted almost exclusively to the study of Shakespeare, which the club endeavored to make complete and exhaustive by bringing into requisition all the auxiliaries which modern learning, investigation, and criticism could furnish in illustrating the power and genius of that greatest of all dramatists.

During 1891-92 English history and literature was resumed and most thoroughly studied. In March, 1892, an instructive and enjoyable feature was added, "The Parlor Talks." These were given at the residence of some one of the members once a month, and consisted of talks by gentlemen on subjects of their own selection. The Pacaha Club during this year became a part of the General Federation, and was represented by a delegate at the biennial meeting held in Chicago in May, 1892. In the fall of 1892 a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and it was decided that the officers should consist of a president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, and treasurer, elected annually; also two standing committees—the Executive, charged with the duty of preparing programmes; and a Committee on Entertainment, which provides music and recitations suitable to the subjects of the meetings. The meetings are in no sense social gatherings, but are strictly devoted to the work on hand, and only once a year, at the anniversary meetings, do members deviate from this rule.

In 1893 the membership had become more than thirty, and the club rented an apartment of its own, where the meetings have since been held. The year 1893-94 was most delightfully spent with Scott and Irving, and only such kindred subjects as these two names suggested were made a part of the programme. The last Thursday of each month was devoted to current topics and the criticism of pronunciation.

The programme for 1894-95 was a varied one. Ireland and Wales, their history and literature, were made the subject of study for the first two months, and, from December to June, American literature, art, and science were studied.



An exhaustive study of Arkansas, followed by a four months' sojourn in Greece with Homer and Plato, and two months of field work in botany, occupied 1895-96. In 1897 the club studies had been taken from Shakespeare, Italian plays, and from magazines. There is a leader appointed for each play, and she gives every member one or as many questions as she wishes, to be answered at the meeting. For assistance in the

study of the play there is a form of analysis on the flyleaf of the programme that can be applied to each play. On the last Thursday of the month the topic for the day is magazine study, and there is also a leader appointed for each of these days. The expenses of the club are small, and defrayed by monthly dues. The club colors are purple, white, and gold. Its representative flower is the passion flower, which grows wild in the fields of the South.

FORMATION OF THE STATE FEDERATION

April 22, 1897, was a memorable day in the club movement in Arkansas. It was on that day that forty-eight delegates, representing twenty-four clubs, met in convention in the Opera House of the city of Little Rock, in response to a call from the State chairman of correspondence of the General Federation, for the purpose of forming a State federation. Several hundred club women evidenced by their attendance interest in this progressive movement.

It was a gathering typical of Southern womanhood. There were apparent from the first the native timidity and shrinking from publicity characteristic of those whose lives have been passed in the seclusion of home, and yet there was manifested desire to push forward, lest by hesitancy advancement be retarded.

When Mrs. Ratcliffe called the convention to order at 10.30 A.M., not less than three hundred daughters of Arkansas faced her. All were not delegates, but all were heartily in sympathy with the organization movement.

The address of the State chairman was inspiring. She said in part: "For what purpose are we assembled? Is this gathering the outcome of an emotion? A spirit of restless activity, or a well-defined purpose? Let us look beneath the surface and see the motives that have prompted us to meet. Woman is essentially social in her nature, but that is not the sum and substance of her existence. Hitherto her intellectual and philanthropic activities have been carried on in almost the manner of the hermit. Self and not the common weal has too often been considered. The possibilities of woman to-day demand not only culture and intelligence, but the skilful and well-directed efforts of women as an organized force.

"A federation of the women's clubs of Arkansas means combined effort



MRS. WM. C. RATCLIFFE,
President Arkansas State Federation

looking to the advancement of culture and the upbuilding of humanity. The federation is to the club what the club is to the individual.

"Naturally, congenial people are brought together, and a reciprocity of ideas and good feeling is the result. New acquaintances both pleasant and profitable are formed, and from this comes an increment of strength. The federation will provoke one another to good works, and as a result clubs, various but united in purpose, will be organized over the State. Our women need a stimulus, an encouragement to express themselves, their needs, their capacities, their ambitions.

"The federation has been a unit of power in other States, and we can do no better than to follow their example.

"For this purpose we have come together. We welcome you here, feeling assured that this movement will have your sympathy, your coöperation, and your hearty support.

"Let us put forth our best efforts to create a federation that shall make Arkansas take rank with the most progressive States of our Union. Let us so plan that from her hill-tops to her valleys our women shall know and feel that this great work makes all our world akin.

"Roman roads, like great arteries, carried the pulsing heart-throbs from the Eternal City to the finger-tips of civilization. Let us make goodness so to radiate from our federation that those living in the farthest limits of our State may recognize its influence and feel its thrill of sympathy. Let us make universal sisterhood something more than theoretical in our striving after a fulfilling of that 'unity in diversity' which is God's law of the universe—

' Out of the shadow of night
The world moves into light—
It is daybreak everywhere.'"

Soon voices gained courage, and the power of harmonious union, which is strength, was recognized. Brave plunges into parliamentary discussions, safely guided by Robert's rules of order, gave zest to the occasion.

Among the interesting features of the convention were some fine papers read by Mrs. Myra Warner on "New Education," by Mrs. John R. Dale on the "Modern American Woman," and by Mrs. H. M. Cooper on "Froebel's Mother Play, and its Influence in the Home."

The president of the Nineteenth Century Club, of Memphis, Tenn., lent inspiration by her presence. The absence of Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president of the General Federation, was a keen disappointment.

In the election of permanent officers, Mrs. William C. Ratcliffe was, on motion of Mrs. T. T. Cotnam, made president by acclamation.



GROUP OF OFFICERS OF THE ARKANSAS STATE FEDERATION

MRS. LEWIS BRYAN
 MRS. JOHN J. SUMPTER, JR.
 MRS. WILLIAM B. FOLSOM

MISS MARGARET E. WOOD
 MRS. WM. C. RATCLIFFE, President
 MRS. C. E. PATTILLO

On motion of Mrs. Frederick Hanger, a rising vote of thanks was given to Mrs. J. B. Hirsch, the temporary chairman of the convention. The delegates were afterward entertained at a reception given by the Æsthetic Club, and in the evening, at her house, by Mrs. Ratcliffe.

The constitution, as submitted by the chairman of the committee, Mrs. W. H. McHenry, of Lonoke, and after debate adopted, stated as the object: "To bring into closer sympathy the women's clubs of the State; to afford helpful interchange of club methods; to project plans for the highest and broadest culture; to quicken an interest and arouse a zeal upon all lines of intellectual, social, scientific, and philanthropic work."

The by-laws defined the duties of officers, and also contained two provisions worthy of note: one, that the Executive Board, and members of the special committees appointed by the president, to report at the annual meeting, shall be regular members of the federation and entitled to vote; the other, that this federation shall become a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The officers elected, in addition to Mrs. Ratcliffe, president, were: vice-president, Mrs. J. B. Pillow, Helena; recording secretary, T. T. Cotnam, Little Rock; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. H. McHenry, Lonoke; treasurer, Mrs. J. J. Sumpter, Hot Springs; auditor, Mrs. A. D. Blann, Crawfordsville.

The Executive Board was formed of Mrs. W. H. McHenry, of Lonoke; Mrs. James P. Clarke, Mrs. E. B. Kinsworthy, Mrs. W. B. Folsom, and Mrs. M. M. Cohn, of Little Rock.

Committees were appointed as follows; Education, Mrs. C. E. Pattillo, chairman; Social Science, Mrs. Myra Warner, chairman; Reform, Mrs. J. W. Crawford, chairman; Reciprocity, Miss Margaret Wood, chairman; Mrs. William Cummins Ratcliffe, State chairman for Arkansas.

The following clubs were represented at roll-call: Pacaha Club, Musical and Woman's Library Association, Helena; Ladies' Literary club, Crawfordsville; King's Daughters, Brinkley; Æsthetic, Quid Nuncs, Educational Aid, Musical Coterie, Woman's Coöperative Association, Edelweiss, Warner Literary, W. C. T. U., Woman's Auxiliary, Woman's Court, Froebel, and Women's Truth Club, Little Rock; Fortnightly Club and Lotus Club, Hot Springs; Woman's Club, Lonoke; Woman's Hospital and Benevolent Association, Pine Bluffs; Woman's Club, Searcy; Woman's Literary Club, Van Buren; State Division of Ladies' Hermitage Association.

Club life in Arkansas owes much to the energetic State chairman, Mrs. W. C. Ratcliffe.

Mrs. Ratcliffe is well descended on both the paternal and maternal sides. She served on the Executive Board of the World's Columbian and also the Atlanta Exposition. She was the first president of the Columbian

Club, of over one hundred members, and State regent of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She has been active in the work of organization among the women of Arkansas since its inception, and had, therefore, a wide experience to aid in her later work. She was born in Little Rock; her mother was Matilda Cunningham Hanger, whose father was Dr. Matthew Cunningham, associated in practice with Benjamin Rush, of Philadelphia.

In addition to other interests, Mrs. Ratcliffe is the president of the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society, and superintendent of the Department of Systematic and Proportionate Giving in the Methodist Episcopal Church, which brings her into correspondence with upwards of twenty thousand women all over the South. To aid in this work of educating women to give systematically, Mrs. Ratcliffe arranged an original record book, and distributed it to the thirteen hundred auxiliary mission societies.

An active committee, Mrs. Jennie Beauchamp, chairman, has been formed in the State Federation of Arkansas, and has addressed a vigorous appeal upon its subject of household economics to the women of the federation and the State.

Mrs. Beauchamp urges each club to take up the matter vigorously, and make a faithful study of household conditions and the requisites for improvement. She suggests a list of subjects in regard to homes as they are, and homes as they should be; the chemistry of foods and body-building; the sanitation of homes; the saving of waste; food for children; the detection of adulterations of food; the use and abuse of the ornamental in home life, and other cognate topics. The department promises to be one of interest and general usefulness. Mrs. Myra C. Warner and S. H. Wallace are the other members of the committee.

Mrs. Charles Evans Pattillo, chairman of the Education Committee of the Arkansas Federation of Women's Clubs, was for four years lady principal of the Wesleyan Female College, Macon, Ga., the oldest chartered woman's college in America. Her splendid ability as teacher, disciplinarian, and organizer are fully recognized in her new home, Little Rock, where, as the wife of the pastor of First Methodist Episcopal Church, South, her talents have opportunity for full development. As a club worker her worth is acknowledged by those so fortunate as to be



MRS. JENNIE BEAUCHAMP,
Vice-President National Household
Economic Association

brought in contact with her. Great results are looked for in the educational work of the State federation under her leadership.

The Æsthetic Club.—In January, 1883, the efforts of Mrs. Rufus J. Polk to start a reading club for mutual improvement culminated in the organization of a club with a membership limited to fifteen, to meet weekly at the homes of the members. The name Æsthetic was adopted, and the Annunciation lily was chosen as the emblem. Such was the origin of the flourishing Æsthetic Club, which has become so potent a factor in broadening the field of intellectual development in the beautiful City of Roses.

From time to time the membership limit was extended, until, in 1885, it had become fifty active and fifteen honorary members. In 1893 the club was admitted to membership in the General Federation, and was represented at the meeting held in Chicago that year. Its limit was then seventy-five members, later increased to one hundred active members and fifteen honorary.

In 1894, from an itinerary of semi-monthly meetings at the homes of the members, the club settled down to permanent domesticity in handsome rooms in the historic old building that for sixty years has stood as the central structure in the United States barracks. The club-rooms are adorned with the tapestries and hangings that were used in the Arkansas Building at the World's Fair. Two pianos, cabinets of china, pictures, and bric-à-brac give to its local habitation the charm its name suggests.

At the close of the season of 1895-96 a review of the club's history showed that thirteen presidents had left the impress of their personal energy and spirit of progress on its character, while eight painstaking secretaries, with sharpened wits and pencils, have recorded the club's ways and days. The unity and personal responsibility of the membership passed into a proverb long ago.

A backward glance at the records, calendars, and year-books shows that the members have journeyed together through all ages and climes; that they have gleaned from the fields of literature and art, and have felt the electric thrill of the mighty movement of our own times.

The season of 1896-97 opened with a most encouraging outlook, under the guidance of Mrs. James A. Fones as president and Mrs. W. A. Cook as secretary. The fine year-book, arranged by the president and her co-workers, demonstrated the upward and onward trend of club life.

Among the progressive steps of the present administration are the adoption of "Roberts' Rules of Order," the introduction of open oral discussions, a provision for special club stationery, the inauguration of an annual club musicale, the revision and amendment of the constitution and by-laws, and the coöperation with sister clubs to organize a State federation.



ÆSTHETIC CLUB, LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

MRS. RUFUS J. POLK, Founder

MRS. WM. A. CANTRELL, Representative Member

MRS. JAMES A. FONES, President

All the ages, young, old, and middle-aged, are gathered in the membership, and there is a delightful fraternity of spirit among them. The old bring their ripe experiences; the young their youth and eager enthusiasm for knowledge. The result is a blending of social and intellectual life as nearly ideal as can be found in this mortal world.

The Alumnæ of the Arkansas Woman's College resolved itself into an organization for literary work, at a regular meeting, June, 1894, at the suggestion of Mrs. Myra C. Warner. The idea was enthusiastically received, and in the following September a permanent organization for the study of literature was decided upon. Fifteen charter members were present, and it was the unanimous wish of the assembly that it should be called the "Warner Literary Club," in honor of Mrs. M. C. Warner, who had been the teacher of

each one of the *alumnæ*, which numbers about one hundred members. Mrs. Warner was made president; Mrs. Charles Martin, vice-president, and Miss Annie Brown, secretary. A constitution and by-laws were agreed upon, the parlors of the Arkansas Federation chosen as the place of meeting, and alternate Tuesdays the time. Greek history was the subject during the first two years, supplemented by other topics and free discussion.

It was at first decided that membership in the club should be limited to the members of the *Alumnæ Association*, but before the first year's work was done, it was resolved to open the doors to a limited number of outside women.

The club has now about forty active members, and continues its plan of special study.

American Historical Club, of Hamburg, desiring "to keep in touch with the progressive women of Arkansas," enrolled as charter member of the State federation. The zealous corresponding secretary is Mrs. Elizabeth A. Craige.

Coöperative Club, of Little Rock, was founded by Mrs. H. P. Edmonson for the purpose of helping busy girls physically and mentally. Mrs. Logan H.

Roots was elected president, and to obtain the money necessary to carrying on the work, furnishing rooms, starting a library, and the like, organized a woman's edition of the *Democrat*, which netted the new organization one thousand dollars.

An instructor of physical culture was employed, and classes formed for a gymnasium. But the bicycle proved a formidable rival, and the women interested in the busy girls conceded that a healthful spin upon the wheel in the open air was better than swinging dumb-bells in a close room.

It was then determined to reorganize upon a departmental basis, and instead of a purely philanthropic, make of the "Coöperative" an all-round, up-to-date club.

The membership was divided into committees under "Civics," "Economics," "Education," "Art," "Science," "Philanthropy," "Music," and "Reform."

The president writes: "Our aim is to make ourselves acquainted with the best in literature and art, the best of the past, the best in the present. Our newspapers are most valuable. One of the small things we have accomplished



MRS. LOGAN H. ROOTS,
Founder Coöperative Club, Little Rock

is furnishing and sustaining a room in the Logan H. Roots Memorial Hospital."

The work in the industrial home, which is done by the members, is most satisfactory.

The unfortunate girls who find refuge there are trained to habits of industry, and many have gone again into the world wiser, better, more capable women, and are living useful, respectable lives.

Under the wise management of the present president, Mrs. John Fletcher, the library has grown from a few volumes to several hundreds. The reading-rooms are a delightful place in which to spend a quiet hour. Public school children are encouraged to avail themselves of the books and magazines; by the payment of a nominal sum they can have the use of a book for one week.

The object of the Coöperative Club is "intellectual improvement." The willingness to aid and the generally high character of the members have given them a recognized place in the life of Little Rock club-women.

"The Coöperative Club keeps itself in touch with the great question of civic reform, and other advanced movements, and endeavors by wise and judicious methods to strengthen public opinion in favor of progressive aims by study classes in history, literature, and art, and, morally, by aiding and encouraging all good, helpful work; and, individually, to fulfil the daily duty and live in harmony with each other and the world." It is a member of the State and General Federations of Women's Clubs, and considers "organization by women, and for women," the most helpful note the century has struck.

Mrs. Logan H. Roots, one of the founders, and the first president of the Coöperative Club, built and gave to the city the Memorial Hospital, which bears her name. She is a Colonial Dame, a Daughter of the American Revolution, and a lineal descendant of Roger Williams. She has been a resident of Little Rock for thirty years, and identified with every charitable work.

Edelweiss Circle, of Little Rock, Ark., was organized on April 10, 1895, by four women—Mrs. L. P. Thomas, Mrs. C. E. Pattillo, Mrs. L. H. Bradfield, and Mrs. T. T. Cotnam—for the purpose of study and research. The membership was limited to twelve, and in a short time all the places were taken.

"The Intellectual Development of Europe," by John W. Draper, has formed the basis of study since the organization, and was not completed until May, 1897. In connection with the principal topic, questions of timely interest are discussed, and papers showing careful preparation are read.

During the spring of 1896 much time was spent in the study of Tennyson's "Idyles of the King." Mr. H. M. Du Bose, of California, kindly responded to a request to lecture to the circle on this subject, thus directing the study

along the most intelligent lines. The year-book for 1897-98 shows the plan of work to be, for the greater part, the study of Southern literature; while much benefit is derived from the plan of answering to roll-call with current events, each number representing a different country.

That the meetings of the Edelweiss are of practical benefit was shown at the meeting of February 28, 1896. The subject for discussion was "Woman's



MRS. L. P. THOMAS,
President Edelweiss Club, Little Rock

Work in Behalf of Prisoners of Poverty," and a paper was read on "The Charitable Institutions of Little Rock." Then a member spoke of a needy family near by, where death had just claimed their only hope for a support. Immediately each woman present contributed to relieve this sore necessity, and sympathy went to them in the person of a kind, sweet woman, who bore evidence that the star-flower, edelweiss, had taken root in the love of humanity, and could not fail to blossom into a larger and better life. The president, Mrs. L. P. Thomas, is a live, progressive woman, and possessed of executive ability of no mean order. The secretary, Mrs. T. T. Cotnam, has been a club-woman for eleven years, and is thoroughly devoted to the work. The entire membership is harmonious and full of enthusiasm; among them are

the State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the wives of the governor, the attorney-general, and a member of the supreme bench.

The Educational Aid Society, under the able management of its founder and president, Mrs. George McDanniel, has done some fine work, chiefly in the education of young girls. Their work is literary and philanthropic.

The Froebel Association, of Little Rock, has for its first object to establish and maintain a training school for kindergarten teachers.

The idea took form in April, 1897, at a meeting called by Mrs. Henry M. Cooper, at her home in Little Rock, and Mrs. Cooper was made the president. At a subsequent meeting it united as an organization with the State federation.

The school is projected on lines similar to the Kindergarten College of Chicago. In it the young women of the State will have the opportunity of kindergarten training at nominal cost. Just what this will mean to the cause of education in Arkansas cannot now be estimated, but when the kindergarten spirit has thoroughly permeated every part of the State, and its principles be understood, then the story of this movement may be told.

The Fortnightly Club, of Hot Springs, started with a limited membership of fifteen in the early part of 1896.

The object on the part of this group of women was mental cultivation and social intercourse. The methods were definite and orderly from the first. The programme was arranged by a committee, with the aid of the president, for a year in advance, and a duty assigned to any member has never been unfulfilled. The work is both written and oral. The motto, "Press Forward." Only one subject is ever taken up at any one meeting, music and recitations furnishing the lighter element. The colors are pink and lavender, and a waiting list will be included in the membership as soon as a permanent home is secured. The club is aspiring and progressive.

The Fortnightly Club, of Fort Smith, was organized in October, 1888, with a limited membership of twenty-five.

Mrs. I. C. Parker, wife of the eminent jurist, Judge Isaac C. Parker, was elected president, and has served in that capacity ever since.

The Fortnightly was from the first a study club of a high order, with a university standard, and its work obtained the respect of thinkers among men.

The courses of its study have included English literature, American history, Shakespeare, German literature, in connection with the physical geography of ancient Germany and as applied to its mythology, superstitions, politics, and its modern intellectual development in prose and poetry.

The practical work of the club has been expended in gathering together a library of over two thousand volumes, with the hope of forming a nucleus to which wealth and culture might in time add the where-withal to constitute it a centre of educational value to this part of the South.

The president of the library is Mrs. George H. Lyman; the vice-president, Mrs. Joseph M. Hill; secretary, Mrs. Hubbard Stone; and treasurer, Mrs. W. H. H. Clayton. Miss Emma McClure is the librarian.

The Helena Musical Club is a recent organization (January, 1897), devoted to the cultivation of music from its literary as well as its practical standpoint.



MRS. JUDGE I. C. PARKER,
President Fortnightly Club, Fort Smith



MRS. EDWARD S. READY,
President Helena Musical Club

A clause in the constitution precludes the election of a candidate who is not acceptable to every member.

This promotes the spirit of devotion to the specialized work, which is musical study and practice.

The membership consists of the most cultivated amateurs in the community. It is limited, and the meetings are fortnightly.

The subjects are usually some one of the great composers, with examples of his style, and illustrative papers concerning his life and the period in which he lived.

Mrs. E. S. Ready is the president, and Mrs. E. M. Ford the secretary. The president arranges the programmes.

Hawthorne Club, of Little Rock, dates from February, 1886. It is a book club of twenty members, with president, secretary, and Furnishing Committee.

Its secretary is also treasurer and librarian.

Its object is the purchase of the newest books, and the distribution of the pleasure of reading them.

The selection of works is about equally divided between histories, travels, biography, and fiction, with occasional excursions into the realms of the philosophical essay.

A still earlier club of the same class is the Ingleside, the first book club in Little Rock. It admitted both men and women.

The charter members were: President, Mrs. Caroline Skipwith, who still holds that office; secretary, Mrs. Clarence Selden; Purchasing Committee, Mrs. C. T. Walker, Mrs. R. C. Douglas, and Miss Jordan; members, Mrs. W. C. Ratcliffe, Laura C. Lewis, A. L. Breysacher, T. W. Newton, Charles Morton, Mary W. Field, H. M. Rector, G. P. C. Rumbough, Walton Watkins, Richard H. Johnson, John McClure, T. C. Brandon, Logan H. Roots, Mary B. Murrell, and Miss Georgie Watkins.

It is remarked of the Ingleside that it orders books before the "ink is dry on them." Mrs. Frederick Hanger is the present very efficient secretary and treasurer.

The Waverley Book Club was organized in October, 1893, at the residence of Mrs. John M. Moore.

The object of the club has been to keep in touch with the best modern literature of all countries, and the books range over the wide field of history, biography, travel, art, drama, and fiction.

The Imperial Book Club began February, 1894, at which time sixteen ladies assembled at the residence of Mrs. Anna Humphries, and elected Miss Lilly Beasely, president; Mrs. Carrie Parker, secretary; Mrs. Lillie Hall, treasurer.

This club differs from other book clubs in making a study of special authors, the selection as yet not having gone beyond America, and largely confined to the poets.

The Lotus Club, of Hot Springs, is the oldest existing woman's club of that famous health resort. It dates from October, 1890, and was founded by Mrs. Lillian C. Ray and Mrs. E. W. Rector; the former becoming the first president, and the latter twice honored with the chief office since its beginning.

The avowed motive was literary and social enjoyment, and along these lines it has kept well to the front throughout its seven years of life. It is a law of the club that there shall be no drones. Each member is required to perform the part assigned to her, and the training thus acquired has shown itself in a rich development of some of the brightest minds in the city.

The work consists of papers, discussions, readings, and music. All the topics of the day find a place upon the programmes, in addition to the special literary topic of the year. Politics and religion are barred out by an unwritten law. The presidents have been: Mrs. L. C. Ray, Mrs. E. W. Rector, Mrs. J. N. Keller, Mrs. C. D. Graves, Mrs. E. L. Leatherman, and Mrs. J. W. Carrington, who holds that office at the present time.

The club flower is the lotus. The colors, rose and white. The motto, *Quantum libet*.

Pansy Club, Osceola.—In compliance with an invitation from Mrs. H. D. Tomlinson, several ladies met at her home on January 29, 1896, to organize a book club. The existence of such a club was deemed more necessary in a small and somewhat isolated town like Osceola than in a larger place. Cities afford opportunities for development, while in a small town each must depend upon personal opportunities and capabilities.



MRS. J. W. CARRINGTON,
President Lotus Club, Hot Springs

The names of six ladies were enrolled as members, and the Pansy Club was organized. The meetings are held on the afternoons of the second and fourth Mondays in each month. The hostess fills the place of presiding officer. The object of the club, which has enlarged its membership, is to keep in touch with events as well as current literature. The interest has increased, and thirteen members now respond to the roll-call, with a quotation from some Greek writer. The work is highly entertaining and profitable. The club is composed chiefly of married ladies, and its social feature is one of its best. Mothers who have always stayed at home find the meetings a tonic, enlivening and strengthening, creating new ideas, new motives, and greater possibilities.

The motto is, "Faith in the God of Truth. Hope for the unfolding centuries. Charity for all endeavor." The only officers are Mrs. S. A. Morris, librarian, and Mrs. R. C. Prewett, secretary and treasurer.

"What next?" **The Quid Nunc**, of Little Rock, is a study and conversational club, and delights in the possession of a unique name, a congenial membership, seven years of experience, abundant energy, and the inspiration of a magnetic leader. It is also inspiringly social.

Finding that miscellaneous work, though often brilliant, did not give satisfactory results, the study scheme of the club was changed to systematic courses on given lines. Four years were spent in the study of Greek and Roman life, law, literature, arts, and arms. That the Quid Nuncs should not be buried in antiquity, all the live issues of the day in national, international, social, and civil affairs are discussed in connection with the study course.



MRS. FREDERICK HANGER,
President of the Quid Nunc Club,
Little Rock

The Quid Nuncs are repudiating paper, finding that spontaneous discussions are more beneficial and enjoyable. The lines at the beginning of last year's programme were "The Dutch have taken Holland; let us follow in their wake"; and they bravely waded in and took Holland in good round Dutch doses, from the artistic views at the top of the highest windmill to the dredging industry at the bottom of the deepest dyke, while timely topics and parliamentary drills were thrown in for contemporary ballast.

"While we consider," says the club historian,

"the club specially, we have a general and overwhelming belief in women's clubs. They are a medium whereby information and ideas are interchanged and enlarged, and from which widening circles of womanly progress emanate. It is a divine instruction and inspiration.

"In thinking of women, her club days and ways, and rejoicing in both, there comes an echo from the past—that clubless past of our grandmothers. Have you ever considered their voiceless condition, and been thankful in your day and generation?

"It is little wonder that the speaking needs of the hour found the remedy they did, and that the countless thousands of women enjoy to-day the pleasures and privileges they do. In a review of club life, behold the long and illustrious line of presidents that have called their members to order, and forget not that noble procession of martyrs, the secretaries, whose sharpened wits and pencils have recorded an eternity of 'minutes,' and whose adjectives and adverbs would make a flowery zone the linked sweetness long drawn out of which would girdle the very earth."

Out of suggestive programmes and subjects discussed during the past year, the following are taken at random:

Discussion.—"Holland's Historical Connection with Great Britain."

"The Dutch in the Colonial History of America." Discussion.—"Holland as a Colonizing Power."

Discussion.—"Ideas in Government that the United States Borrowed from the United Netherlands."

Symposium (Christmas).—"Now I am in a holiday humor." "The Legend of the Flying Dutchman." "The Storks, Windmills, and Dykes in Dutch Landscape and Legend," "Dutch Customs and Characteristics."

"Women as Conquerors, Martyrs, and Heroines."

Discussion.—"What is a Practical Education for Women?"

Symposium.—"My Favorite Book." "My Most Enjoyable Pastime." "My Dearest Duty."

"Delft and its Potteries." Discussion.—"The Hague and its Picture Gallery."

Discussion.—"Leyden and its University."

The motto of the Quid Nunc is "Two heroic necessities make up a large part of our lives—to



MRS. CLIFTON SYDNEY GRAY,
Representative Member Quid Nunc Club,
Little Rock



MEETING PLACE OF THE QUID NUNC CLUB

be made to do what we dislike, to be withheld from doing what we desire."

The Rainbow Club of Brinkley grew out of the meeting of seven ladies at the residence of Mrs. Harry Hilton, on May 26, 1897. The object is to secure coöperative interest in the cultivation of music and literature, and also promote that spirit of fellowship which more intimate knowledge of one another fosters.

Meetings were arranged for the third Monday of each month, which should combine literary exercises with social entertainment; the hostess of the day serving refreshments after the completion of the programme.

Mrs. Charles B. LaBelle was unanimously chosen president; Mrs. A. A. Diffy, vice-president, and Miss Nellie Lanford, secretary and treasurer.

The mystical seven suggested the "bow of promise" as their name and emblem, and the seven colors were adopted as the club colors.

The "Rainbow" is a charter member of the Arkansas State Federation, and its first two officers are represented on the Executive Board.

It sent delegates to the General Federation at Nashville, and is already an active working club.

The first signed names to the constitution were Mesdames A. A. Diffy, C. B. LaBelle, H. H. Myers, H. S. Mitchell, W. B. Folsom, and Misses Nellie Lanford and Maggie Black. These seven wise women are already proud of their record.

The Woman's Library Association of Helena was organized in 1888. The work originated with a member of the Pacaha Club, of which it may be considered an outgrowth.

The association has a membership of about one hundred women, and a board of directors, chosen from among them. From this board are elected the general officers. A commodious brick building has been erected and is owned by the association, and all its affairs are carried on and its business transacted exclusively by the



MRS. CHARLES B. LABELLE,
President Rainbow Club, Brinkley, Ark.

women. There is an associate membership of men, but they neither vote nor hold office.

The officers are: Mrs. J. B. Pillow, president; Mrs. L. J. Wilkes, vice-president; Mrs. N. M. Niel, secretary; Mrs. J. J. Homer, treasurer.

The Woman's Court Club is one of the youngest of the Arkansas organizations, but promises excellent work.

Its early discussions have been upon current topics, such as arbitration, Cuban conditions, with literary papers, which were really studies of Emer-



WOMAN'S LIBRARY BUILDING, HELENA, ARK.

son's essays. Parliamentary drill is a feature of every meeting. The general subject outlined for 1898 is Greek history, with special reference to its mythology, art, and literature. Occasional lectures on subjects of general interest are open to a larger public, and steady advance is anticipated upon all lines of club work.

The Woman's Club of Crawfordsville began as a reading class in 1894, with the ultimate object of founding a public library. By process of natural evolution it has become a county (Crittenden) club "*Onward and upward.*" with an enlarged membership, and committees upon literature, art, current topics, and social economics.

The officers of the club are as follows: president, vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, critic, parliamentary critic, treasurer, librarian, marshal, and a staff consisting of an editor and two assistants. Elections take place annually, and were, until the last election (which was with ballot by nominating committee), with ballot by nomination from the floor.

All officers are by election except critic, parliamentary critic, and staff, which are by appointment of the president.

The club has erected a town club-house, which is also the town hall. The upper stories are used for lodge and club-rooms.

The secretary writes: "We are not only a mutual admiration society among ourselves, but so much do we possess the good-will of that important factor, man, that when we despaired of raising the necessary funds to further the building of a club-house a subscription of \$500 and a beautiful lot were handed the chairman of the Finance Committee by our townsmen, and by their patronage of our entertainments, and further donations, our dream was realized." The club flower is the thistle, which contains a lesson: "Do not handle roughly. It has thorns." The club colors are the purple of the thistle, green, and white.

The Woman's Literary Club of Van Buren was organized March 5, 1896.

The object of its organization was social and intellectual development. The officers are president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and to these are added a question committee, a critic, and a reporter of current topics.

The membership is limited to thirty.

The initiation fee is one dollar; dues, ten cents per month. The fees are expended in defraying necessary expenses, and in the purchasing of books that are used for reference in the preparation of outlined work. These books form the basis of a city library, which the club is particularly anxious to establish.

Meetings are held fortnightly at the residences of the members.

The club flower is the rose; the colors are pink and green; and the motto, "Strength united is stronger."

The Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society of Arkansas is a State work, with auxiliaries. Its three departments are parsonage building, educational and city mission work.

For years the energies of the society were directed to parsonage building in desolate places and poor districts, and through this means hundreds of preachers with their wives and families have been sheltered and blessed.

One year ago there were seven auxiliaries, some weak and struggling; now there are twenty in good condition.

The third annual session, which occurred in Arkadelphia in 1897, was large and interesting. Before reading her report, the treasurer, Mrs. S. H. Thompson, gave an interesting sketch of woman's work in the conference. Ten years ago she was notified that she had been appointed treasurer of the Woman's Department of Church Extension, and now and then a few dollars were sent her—sometimes without any name, and always at irregular intervals, so that the fund grew very slowly. About three years ago the Woman's Parsonage and Home Mission Society was organized, and the old spasmodic

ways have been gradually superseded by its wise methods, and that little fund has served as the nucleus for what is now a treasury.

Special interest has developed in "mountain" work, with provisions for forming kindergartens and local reading clubs, also departments for "relief" and "rescue" work.

The president is Mrs. W. C. Ratcliffe; corresponding secretary, Mrs. W. H. Pemberton.

A branch of the Needlework Guild of America has been organized in Hot Springs, and is a member of the State federation.

Its officers are: President, Mrs. P. H. Ellsworth; vice-president, Mrs. F. A. Bill; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Geo. H. Eastman. There are forty directors, and all are deeply interested in the work. In connection with the regular guild work there is a "talent shoe fund," which is obtained by voluntary contributions of individual earnings. This fund is to provide shoes exclusively.

The first annual meeting, held at the residence of the president, November 30, 1896, was successful far beyond expectation. Fourteen hundred and twelve garments were received, all good and useful. The work has since increased in volume.

The women of Arkansas are progressive in the best sense. Their aim is education for harmonious development, and the better performance of whatever presents itself as duty.

Clubs in Alabama

ONE of the oldest and most interesting of the federated clubs of Alabama is the "Kettle-Drum" of Tuscaloosa. It was formed in 1888, and meets fortnightly at the homes of the members. The programme is made out by the hostess of the day, and she invites such members as she wishes to assist her in carrying it out. The questions are sometimes social, more frequently literary, occasionally historic or related to art. When a poet is chosen as the subject, everything of interest that can be found in regard to him is brought forward, and the recitations of the day are from his writings.

When a debate is prepared, a judge is appointed to decide on the merits of the question at issue, and the discussion is original, though usually obtained from written papers. The floral decorations are always lavish, as roses bloom all through the winter months, and the members vie with each other in sending beautiful flowers for every occasion. The refreshments, though simple and limited by law, are always delicious, and there is a good deal of rivalry in the making up of the dishes.

The officers are elected twice a year, and are never allowed to succeed themselves. A vacancy rarely occurs in the limited membership of thirty, and the meetings have grown in interest from the beginning. The "Kettle-Drum" has been honored by being included in a directory of American learned societies, issued by the Bureau of Education in Washington in 1895.

The Thursday Literary Club, of Selma, has the honor of being the first regularly organized woman's club in Alabama.

It began in December, 1890, with twelve charter members. Miss Mary La F. Robbins had met, during the previous summer, Miss Temple, of the Ossoli Circle of Knoxville, Tenn.

Miss Temple inspired her with courage and conviction, and upon returning home, a consultation of friends resulted in the issue of invitations with the object of forming a literary club.

This invitation was signed by Mrs. Gertrude Stewart, Mrs. Ida S. Heidt, and Miss Robbins.

Twelve ladies responded out of the thirty addressed, and organized with Miss Robbins as president; Mrs. J. P. Furniss, Mrs. C. W. Hooper, vice-presi-

dents; and Mrs. Ida S. Heidt, secretary. At first the club lived from "hand to mouth," selecting at the one meeting the subject to be handled at the next.

But the necessity of a programme was soon realized, and printed courses for each year have included McCarthy's "History of Our Own Times," with contemporary authors; "Ancient Mediæval Art," "American Authors," White's "Eighteen Christian Centuries," "Foreign Cities," and other topics.

Since the beginning of the Thursday Literary Club, other small literary organizations have been formed, and out of all of these the Selma Library Association has grown. At first only private books of reference could be obtained, but now the Library Association furnishes a collection of nearly a thousand well-selected volumes.

The New Century Club, of Sheffield, was organized in 1892. It is composed entirely of married ladies, the number limited to eighteen members. The first two years it was engaged in magazine study; during the "Columbian fever," Spain occupied the attention of the club, and next the history of the United States. "American Literature" followed. In connection with the literary work, a musical programme, prepared by two musical directors, Mrs. J. C. Harris and Mrs. E. L. Reese, is strictly carried out.

The Progressive Culture Club of the Decaturs was called together in the autumn of 1891 by Mrs. J. C. Hildreth, at whose home the meetings are held; but the formal organization did not take place until the spring of 1892, when committees were formed upon art, literature, music, and ethics, and the chairmen of these committees were appointed to prepare a programme for the next year's work.

The spirit of the club, from the beginning, has been active, enterprising, and progressive; the work done thoughtfully and in such a way as to appeal to the most intelligent class of women in the community. In 1893 a book was prepared, made up from the year's papers and programme, illustrated by the club's own artist, and sent to the club exhibit of the World's Fair. In 1893 the club started a movement for a circulating library, and its growth has been most gratifying. Music has been a great feature of its work, both in practice and theory, the club possessing some fine amateurs on its roll of membership.

The roll-call is replied to in a most original manner, with the name, for example, of some antique Greek sculptor on "Greek art" day, accompanied by



MRS. J. C. HILDRETH,
Founder Progressive Culture Club



MRS. L. P. M. SCOTT,
Treasurer Progressive Culture Club

brief descriptions and by quotations from authors of the period on "Literature" day.

An interesting subject consisted of questions and discussion concerning the writers who formulated the English tongue. One of the papers in "Ethics" was the "Ethical Qualities of the Dollar."

Among the well-known members of the club is Mrs. K. M. Penney, a daughter of Judge Sprak, and a near relation, on the mother's side, of the first Mrs. Benjamin Harrison.

Mrs. Penney was one of the admired visitors to the White House during ex-President Harrison's term of office. Mrs. Hildreth, the founder, is now the honorary president.

The officers for 1897 are: President, Mrs. Godbey; first vice-president, Mrs. Robb; second vice-president, Mrs. Lewis; secretary, Mrs. T. C. Allison; treasurer, Mrs. Scott.

The Programme Committee consists of six members: Mrs. Payne, Mrs. Penney, Mrs. Robb, Mrs. Nelson, Mrs. Allison, and Mrs. Hildreth.

The Highland Book Club, of Birmingham, was born in May, 1894. Primarily, the Book Club, as its name indicates, was organized for the purchase and circulation of new publications, each member being allowed to keep her book two weeks. At the end of each series (twenty weeks) each lady drew a book. For the sum of \$1.50 the members have the privilege of reading twenty new books and becoming the owner of one. After the first four meetings a literary feature was added to the programme, and though some threatened to desert ranks at the name of "papers," all fell in line and did good work. The first plan, to have one meeting devoted to an American poet, the next to a representative American woman, with a paper each time on current events, brought the club, at the close of the series, to the New England writers, the transcendentalists, and landed it at Brook Farm.

The next year countries were taken up, one at a time, giving the geography, government, religion, customs, art, and literature. One of the best features is the symposium



MRS. KATE MARSHALL PENNEY,
Representative Member Progressive Culture
Club

after the papers, in which each member is compelled to take part, contributing thought on the subject under discussion.

STATE FEDERATION

Alabama makes but small showing in the list of federated States and clubs. But organization had existed among the women of the "restful" State for many years before the club idea was reached. It had expressed itself in mission work, in charitable societies, and many offshoots of the churches. An organization without an apparent purpose did not commend itself to the charitable or the religious mind.

It was in December, 1890, that the first club organization was effected; and the rapidity with which the idea spread, and the hold that it has taken upon the minds and hearts of the most intelligent and cultivated women in the different towns and neighborhoods, may be judged from the fact that a State federation was formed in June, 1895, with ten clubs as charter members. The convention was called by the Cadmean Literary Circle, of Birmingham, and the object announced was "to form a State federation of literary clubs." The Cadmean Circle, which took the initiative in forming the State federation, is one of the oldest and most successful literary clubs in the South; it was organized in the autumn of 1887.

A further object was "to bring together for mutual help, for intellectual improvement, and for social union, the women's literary clubs of the State." The constitution of any club applying for membership must show that its purpose is not sectarian or political, but distinctively literary and scientific.

One of the provisions of the constitution is somewhat unusual, and shows that some experience and much thought had been bestowed upon the original draft of a basis for government. This clause provides "that only individual clubs shall be eligible to join the State federation. No associated clubs, city, or sectarian leagues to be admitted."

A board of directors was formed consisting of the general officers, and a representative from each local club.

Miss Mary La F. Robbins, of Selma, was elected president, and the by-laws provided that no woman could hold office for more than a year. It was also provided "that the association shall not, as a body, become auxiliary to any organization without the unanimous concurrence of all the clubs composing the federation." Any individual club belonging to the federation may, however, do so on its own behalf.

Annual meetings and elections are held yearly. At the one following formation, 1896, Mrs. James A. Goring, of Birmingham, was made the president; and following Mrs. Goring, Mrs. Sterling A. Wood, of the No-Name Club, of Montgomery, was called to the chair.

At this meeting delegates were called upon in turn to give a brief account of their organization. This was most interesting. The literary and social features of the clubs, the broad spirit, and the freshness of life and thought created an inspiring influence which has been felt throughout the State club work.

Mrs. John D. Wyker, chairman of State correspondence for Alabama, reported for the Progressive Culture Club, of Decatur, and the modern features of which this club is an exponent excited lively interest.



MRS. GEORGE B. EAGER,
President State Federation

Mrs. George B. Eager reported for the No-Name Club, Montgomery; Miss Katherine Holly, Thursday Literary Club, Selma; Mrs. W. Jameson, Kettle-Drum, Tuscaloosa; Mrs. G. M. Cruikshank, Clionia Club; Mrs. Ball, Cadmean Circle, Birmingham; Mrs. R. D. Johnson, Book Club; Mrs. McLester, Literary Society of the Pollak-Stevens Institute.

The delegates were delightfully entertained by the hostess club of Birmingham.

The annual dues of the State federation are one dollar for each ten members in the federated clubs.

The following summary from the State president was received too late (January, 1898) to put in its proper place, but was in time to add its valuable quota to the summary of club records.—HISTORIAN.

CLUB MOVEMENT IN ALABAMA

No city in all the Southland has been throughout the years more of a literary centre than old Mobile. With its subtle charm from a romantic and historic past, it has been the home of men and women who, in the world of letters, have been shining lights, and to-day, when Alabama women in general are taking a vital interest in literature, it is not amiss to refer to those honored ones whose lives and work have been an inspiration at home and abroad. It is not surprising that a city that claims a Madame Le Vert, a Madame Chaudran, an Augusta Evans, and an Elizabeth Bellamy should be the home of the pioneer woman's literary club of the State.

Sixteen years ago the Mobile Reading Club was organized by Mrs. John R. Tompkins, Mrs. Erwin Craighead, and Miss Leila Ledyard. Under its first president, Mrs. John R. Tompkins, a woman of rare gifts and most generous culture, the club laid broad foundations; and her successors, Mrs.

Erwin Craighead and Mrs. Electra Semmes Colston, have worthily worn her mantle.

The club idea next took root in Birmingham, that magic Southern city said to be enriched by the golden sands of Pactolus. Here it grew and flourished apace, and the Cadmean Circle, organized in 1888, was the first of a sisterhood of nine strong clubs that in their city federation stand for culture, community welfare, and high social life—a powerful influence in the uplift of this vigorous young city.

The classic city of Tuscaloosa next organized a club, which has had a notable career. The Kettle-Drum numbers among its membership such women as Mrs. Belle R. Harrison and Mrs. W. C. Jamison, writers of verse and prose, sought for in high places.

Next in age, as far as can be ascertained, comes the "Inter Le," of Greenville, whose steady shining has lighted up the region roundabout.

The Progressive Culture Club, of New Decatur, was organized in 1892, and under the brilliant leadership of Mrs. J. C. Hildreth forged ahead, true to its name.

The Helen Kellar Library Association, of Tuscumbia, was also organized in 1892, and was chartered in 1893. The work accomplished by this club is something marvellous, and the women of the State look with pride upon the beautiful library building—the home of three thousand choice books—that the Helen Kellar Association has given to its little city.

The No-Name Club, of Montgomery, founded by Mrs. John D. Roquemore, is recognized as one of the leading clubs in the State.

The Thursday Literary Circle, of Selma, organized by Miss Robbins; the Studiosis, of Anniston, made up of some of the brightest and most thoughtful women in Alabama, and other clubs here and there, sprang into being, and a genuine intellectual revival spread over the State.

In 1895, at the suggestion of Miss Mary La F. Robbins, of Selma, who had become impressed with the way the club movement had taken hold of Alabama, the Cadmean Circle invited the other clubs to send representatives to Birmingham for the purpose of organizing a State federation. This was a new departure for conservative Alabama women, and only a few very courageous spirits went up "for to see" what it might mean. Enthusiasm took the place of numbers, and with seven clubs in Birmingham, the Thursday Club of Selma, the No-Name Club of Montgomery, and the Progressive Culture Club of New Decatur, the Alabama State Federation of Women's Literary Clubs was organized, making Alabama the fourth State in the Union to federate her clubs.

During the year a few new clubs were admitted, notably the Studiosis, of Anniston; the Fin de Siècle, of Anniston, and the Hughland Book Club, of

Talladega. Some of the school-girls' clubs had withdrawn; so there was no perceptible increase when the second annual convention was held in Montgomery, in May, 1896, on invitation of the No-Name Club. The leaven was at work, though, and after a charming session the delegates went home full of interest and the spirit of enlargement. The officers elected were:

Mrs. James A. Goring, Birmingham, president; Mrs. Clifford A. Lanier, Montgomery, vice-president; Mrs. Frederick Hardy, Birmingham, corresponding secretary; Miss Flora Frye, Anniston, recording secretary; Miss Kate Holley, Selma, treasurer.

The third annual convention was held in Anniston, the little pearl of Alabama's cities, and a most inspiring meeting it was. The membership of the State federation was nearly doubled, and the roll-call was answered by Mobile, Greenville, and Marion from the South; Guntersville, Sheffield, and Tuscumbia from the North; Talladega and Montevallo from the mountains, and new clubs from Birmingham and Montgomery.

Decidedly, the Alabama State Federation was a success.

The meeting was full of the best spirit of progress, and the desire to enlarge the scope of the federation was quite general. The new officers were: Mrs. George B. Eager, Montgomery, president; Mrs. O. M. Reynolds, Anniston, vice-president; Miss Rutson Hatchell, Montgomery, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Erwin Craighead, Mobile, recording secretary; Mrs. R. H. Wilhoyte, Sheffield, treasurer.

The work, during the time since May, has made gratifying progress, notwithstanding the limitations caused in the State by fever, panic, and quarantine. The clubs in southern and central Alabama could not be reorganized until January first.

The president, Mrs. George B. Eager, called a meeting of the Executive Board, in Birmingham, December 16th. This was a large and harmonious gathering, and much work was accomplished. Committees on reciprocity, on club extension, on travelling libraries, on purity in literature, on education, and on publication were enlarged or appointed, and, as far as possible, all the clubs were organized for definite work in the State.

The constitution was revised, subject to the vote of the convention in May, 1898. The scope of the federation was widened so that all constituent bodies of women organized on broad and human lines, non-sectarian and non-political, could be welded into one harmonious whole, which, rightly directed, can be made to mean a spirit of redemption in Alabama.

On the recommendation of the Reciprocity Committee, it was decided to invite the president of the Georgia Federation to address the Alabama Federation on the advantages of organic union with the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

It was resolved to publish a monthly magazine as the official organ of the State federation and as a means of communication between the club-women. Mrs. J. F. McLester, Mrs. L. T. Haley, as editors, and Mrs. T. O. Smith, as business manager, were put in charge of this enterprise, which is located at Birmingham.

Alabama women have begun to discover themselves, their powers, their influence, and their responsibilities. They have made a step in advance of self. They are becoming acquainted with conditions as they really exist. They are trying to learn what the hour asks for, and have an answer ready.

MRS. G. B. EAGER,

President Alabama Federation of Women's Clubs.

Club Life in California

THE club life of women in California presents many interesting features. It differs from the club life of the East in being almost wholly centred in towns and cities. This has been a necessity of the past, the country neighborhoods having been for the most part unsettled, the population widely scattered and extremely fluctuating. A difference, however, is already beginning to manifest itself. Small clubs are being formed in remote districts.

The Woman's Parliament of Southern California, which covers several counties and whose membership is drawn from women isolated on ranches as well as living in towns, has done much to stimulate the growth of a wide club interest.

The Lemoore Woman's Club is country born and bred; the outcome of a longing of country women for a more intellectual life and closer bond of fellowship. Its members are of all classes and creeds; the club excludes all forms of propaganda, but is in full touch with all forms of human improvement.

It is a little curious that this club, like the country clubs of the East and South, has taken up largely the plans for neighborhood improvement; the present condition of its streets and roads, its school-houses, and even its churches, owes much to its energetic action.

The Ebell Society of Oakland, Cal., was organized in December, 1876, owing its existence to Dr. Aaron F. Ebell, whose name it bears.

His enthusiastic belief in the possibilities of successful organized work for women inspired a few earnest souls with the same belief, and an organization consisting of twenty members, with a constitution and by-laws for self-government, was the beginning.

The design of the society has been, as far as possible, to secure individual research in the several lines of study taken up, to develop thought and to promote independent work among women.

The Ebell was incorporated in 1884.

Within three years the membership has increased from 250 to 400. It is now full, and there is a long waiting list.

One of its charming social ideas is to give an afternoon reception once a year to new members. On these occasions the ladies who have been



EBELL SOCIETY BUILDING, OAKLAND, CAL.

admitted during the year, and those under whose auspices they have been introduced to the club, are expected to be present; an introduction to the officers and Board of Directors is the order of the afternoon, followed by social intercourse, which establishes friendly relations.

During May a "rose" day sometimes occurs, when a paper is given upon the rose and its family, and a fine display of choice roses of many varieties turns the beautiful assembly room into a veritable rose garden. But the purpose of the club is not even secondarily social; it is seriously studious.

Its government is in the hands of an executive board of nine directors, elected by ballot of the club, the board electing the general officers from their own numbers. The studies are carried on by sections, a given number of members having the right to form any kind of study section desired, by permission from the Board of Directors.

The chairmen of these divisions are called "curators," and the sections are all under the superintendence of a general curator.

A committee upon admission receives applications for membership, and rejects or passes them over to the Board of Directors, the board having the final power in its hands.

There are now fifteen sections in actual service: "Economics," "Oriental Literature," "Nineteenth Century Literature," "Art," with four divisions—painting, architecture, sculpture, and music; "Tourist," "German" (elementary, and literature); "French" (grammar, conversation, and translation); "Spanish" (elementary and advanced); "General Literature," and a class in china painting.

The different sections provide a great variety of lectures, talks, and other entertainments for club members, as well as those interested in their specialties. Scholarly men and women consider it a privilege to speak before an audience so appreciative and competent to judge, and whose continued work and life have made an atmosphere as strengthening as it is rare and fine.

Frequent changes occur in sections; for example, the following are announced to begin work in September, in addition to those already mentioned:



EBELL SOCIETY BUILDING—AUDITORIUM

"American History," "Live Issues," "Book Reviews," "Current Events," and "Ancient Literature."

The following is a syllabus of English study in the first "Art" section:

- I. Early History of Britain. Celts, Danes, and Saxons.
- II. Geography and Physical Features of England.
- III. Formation and Origin of the English Language. Bards and Poetry of Wales.
- IV. Early English Art. Druidical Remains. Illuminated MSS.
- V. English Gothic Architecture.—Cathedrals of York, Salisbury, Gloucester, Peterborough, Canterbury, Old St. Paul's, Chester. Feudal Castles.—Kenilworth, Windsor, Hampton Court. Stately Homes of England.
- VI. English Literature under the Norman Kings. Chaucer and his Followers.
- VII. 1215-17. Magna Charta. The Growth of the English Constitution. Foundation of Schools and Universities.
- VIII. The Early Masters.—Holbein, Sir A. Moro, Oliver, Van Dyke, George Jamesone, Sir Peter Lely, Sir Godfrey Kneller, Sir James Thornhill.
- IX. The Reformation and its Literature. 1540-53. The Age of Elizabeth. The Expansion of England, and the Beginning of her Commercial Greatness.
- X. Early Masters (continued).—William Hogarth, Richard Wilson, Sir Joshua Reynolds, William Blake, J. M. W. Turner, Thomas Gainsborough, Sir Edwin Landseer, and artists of their time.
- XI. English Cathedrals.—Durham, Lincoln, Oxford. Domestic Architecture. Old Taverns.
- XII. Spenser. The Rise of the Drama. Bacon.
- XIII. Oliver Cromwell and the Revolution. The Literature of the Puritans. The Cavalier Poets.
- XIV. The Restoration. Dryden. Drama of the Restoration.
- XV. The Ceramic Art of England.
- XVI. English Sculpture. Old English Customs. Punishments and Amusements.
- XVII. The Literature of the Age of Anne. Pope and the Classical School of Poetry. English Philosophy. The Essayists. The Rise of the Modern Novel.
- XVIII. English Abbeys. Tower of London. Houses of Parliament. Westminster. Palaces of London.
- XIX. History of English Theatres. History of English Funerals and Weddings. English Lighthouses.
- XX. Kensington Modern School of Art, 1850-82. The Pre-Raphaelites (John Ruskin, Holman Hunt, Sir Noel Paton, J. E. Millais, D. G. Rossetti).

F. Madox Brown, Burne-Jones. Landscape.—J. F. Millais, David Cox, Mark Fisher, R. W. Macbeth, Edwin Edwards.

XXI. Ceramic Art. Etching and Etchers.—Seymore, Haden, Whistler, etc. Historical Painting.—Sir Frederick Leighton, Alma Tadema. Genre Painting.—Erskine Nichol, H. O'Neil, Thomas Faed, G. H. Boughton.

XXII. Modern School of Water Colors. English Caricaturists.

The Ebell may well be called a "liberal education" for those who take advantage of its opportunities.

The Lemoore Woman's Club is one of the most interesting clubs in California. Lemoore, in 1884, was a little town of only six hundred inhabitants, in a county as large as the States of Connecticut and Rhode Island put together. The county is now divided into two, with about fifteen occupants to the mile, instead of fifteen to as many square feet, as in some Eastern cities.

The membership of the Lemoore Woman's Club consists of farmers' wives, and the wives of professional and business men in a scattered community. They are widely separated from each other, do their own work, and often have to drive several miles to reach their club. Frequently they bring a baby with them, or their sewing or knitting.

The committee work is divided into politics, economics, heredity, and natural history.

The programmes are made up of papers, debates, recitations, a lively journal, and good music. The work is mainly original, well prepared, and well sustained. Many of the members have become fluent and ready speakers.

Naturally, the club has had to cover a wide field. It has organized a free reading-room, which is well supplied with periodicals; a relief committee, and a "boys' brigade." It is the duty of this last to look after "*Room for all,* and protect the trees which have been planted along the "*work for all.*" streets and in the public park. This park has been put under the care of the Woman's Club, and its growth in beauty and order has been most satisfactory to the town under its supervision. The club has a committee on sanitation that makes investigations into the conditions of alleys and backyards, and endeavors to promote health and cleanliness in every way.

The Lemoore Woman's Club is governed by strict business principles. All bills are promptly paid. A commodious hall is used for meetings, which take place semi-monthly. The services of lecturers are occasionally secured, and these are of a kind in which the public is interested, and that can be made to pay. The club owns a good piano and a small but excellent library. All this has been accomplished by an entrance fee of twenty-five cents and quarterly dues of the same amount.

The first staff of officers were: President, Mrs. Emma Fox; vice-president, Mrs. Lovelace; secretary, Mrs. Barrett; financial secretary, Mrs. Amerman; treasurer, Miss Lizzie Smalley. These women manifested so much club spirit and so much interest in their work that at the expiration of the year they were unanimously reelected. Succeeding officers have been as zealous and as efficient.

The spirit of the club is democratic. The usher takes just as much pride in her work as the president, and the position is held in just as high esteem.

The club colors are white and yellow; the floral emblems, white and yellow roses; the motto: "Room for all, work for all."

The impetus to organize came in the beginning from the Rev. Sarah Pratt Carr. To her energy and organizing ability the club is largely indebted for its birth.

To the patience and perseverance that come from isolation, and attention to details, which is of necessity the life of the country woman, the club owes its solidity and stamina. To the true womanly and progressive spirit that clamored for the avenue of approach to the broader world, it owes its steady progress and growth.

At the first regular meeting twenty-nine names were placed on the membership roll. These have now grown to seventy-five active and wide-awake women. As a body the club is conservative, though as individuals many of the women are radical. For two years it was the only organized club between San Francisco and Los Angeles.

The officers for 1897-98 are: President, Mrs. Annie M. Sanborn; vice-president, Mrs. Inez L. Barrett; secretary, Mrs. L. M. Holser; financial secretary, Mrs. Stella Brownstone; treasurer, Miss Jennie Espey. Programme Committee: Mrs. T. A. Dodge, Mrs. M. J. Standart, Mrs. Gertrude Bullard, and Mrs. Stella Brownstone.

The Guidon Club of San Francisco is one of the two clubs composed of army women, and subject to the changes, removals, and uncertainties of army life. It was organized by Mrs. Selden H. Day in January, 1884, as the Ladies' Reading Club of Fort Hamilton, N. Y. With the removal of Captain and Mrs. Day to the Presidio, San Francisco, the Ladies' Reading Club found new quarters, and such congenial spirits, that it was adopted as a fixed institution.

Mrs. Day was its first president, and remained its presiding officer for years. She was a woman of singular charm of mind and character, and her death (at the frontier), in 1895, was deeply lamented.

In 1893 it changed its name to the Guidon, and has maintained its literary work and its pleasant social features through all the fluctuations of its army existence.

Military transfers from one station to another are almost a tragedy to the club in the loss of excellent officers and delightful personalities. But the Guidon lives, and is valued by those who come and those who go; the husbands of the members often being intensely interested in this opportunity for intellectual companionship and interchange which break the routine of life at an army post.

The Ruskin Art Club of Los Angeles was organized in October, 1888, for the study of art, especially that branch of it comprised in etching and engraving.



MRS. MARY E. BOYCE,
Founder and First President of the Ruskin Art
Club

The inspiration to form a club of this kind was gained from a collection of etchings and engravings in the possession of Mrs. Mary E. Boyce, and she became its first president.

The special work of the club was thorough from the beginning. The Executive Committee was composed of women in complete sympathy with the work, and the programmes for the first years outlined an education in black-and-white art from the time of the early masters down to Hamerton and Linton.

The club made it a cardinal principle not to hurry its investigations, but to pursue with careful persistence its line of work until it had finished the school or period which it represented.

This method made its studies of value to other clubs pursuing the same line of work, and the programmes were in demand in different parts of the country.

In 1891 a study of the history of ancient art was taken up, beginning with Egypt; and at the close of the year a symposium on Egypt—social and literary in character—was given at the home of Mrs. W. W. Stilson. A course of lectures during that year provided a fund for the purchase of a valuable collection of books of reference.

In 1892 the removal of the president and founder from Los Angeles, transferred the leadership to the vice-president, Mrs. S. C. Hubbell, who carried on the work most successfully, extending it in 1893 to the art and civilization of Greece.

Modern explorations in Egypt and Asia Minor increased the interest in the somewhat abstruse studies of the Ruskin Art Club, and, while increasing

the membership, widened the horizon and created an interest in the history of art and archæology of America, as well as the old world.

The Ruskin Art Club owns a valuable reference library, and subscribes to the Egyptian and Palestine Exploration Fund. Its table is supplied with archæological journals, and its work is also materially aided by the coöperation of the city librarian, whose interest secures for the public library constant accessions of valuable art works.

In the membership are a number of art students, who supplement their college course by a more thorough study of historical art. But the work has been mainly carried on by women, to whom it has been a positive delight to recur, after many years, to actual study and acquisition of real knowledge.

The Kingsley Art Club, of Sacramento, may be said to be an outgrowth of the Ruskin Art Club. Both are members of the General Federation, and both acknowledge indebtedness to Mr. Elbridge Kingsley, who has been from the first an invaluable friendly coadjutor, greatly aiding in the first public exhibition of the Ruskin Art Club, and in direction of the continuous line of study.

The club has fine rooms, furnished with every facility for art study and for pleasure in the prosecution of it.

The Friday Morning Club of Los Angeles was organized April 16, 1891.

Its inspiration was derived from the presence and active interest of Mrs. C. M. Severance, the first president of the New England Woman's Club, but then, and now, a resident of Los Angeles, Cal. The object is stated to be the "discussion of subjects of general interest." In the act of incorporation it is further stated, "for the advancement and promotion of literary and educational interests."

The regular meetings of the club are held on Friday at 10 A.M., and members are allowed to bring non-resident guests under certain conditions established by the Board of Directors. The board consists of eleven members, that transact all the business of the club, and is elected annually on the first Friday in June. A nominating committee of five is elected by the club on the first Friday in March, increased by two members from the existing Board of Directors. From the nominations thus made eight members are chosen and elected by ballot, the president, secretary, and treasurer constituting the additional membership of the board.

The club life has been literary and social; the programmes miscellaneous, always keeping in touch with the current life of the day.

The first president, Mrs. C. M. Severance, now president emeritus, was succeeded by Mrs. J. A. Osgood, and Mrs. Osgood by Mrs. Margaret Collier Grahame. Among the subjects of papers and discussion have been: "The



MRS. C. M. SEVERANCE,
Founder and President Emeritus Friday Morning Club

Age of Romanticism," "Woman's Life in India," "The Causes of Social Unrest," "Impressionism," "The Money Question," "The Neglect of Citizenship," "Tropical Gardens," "Heredity *vs.* Training."

Much attention is given to books, reviews of books of the day, and discussion growing out of them. These are always of an intelligent and thoughtful kind, and include biography and works of philosophy, as well as fiction. There are a book committee, whose office is by no means a sinecure, and a committee on hospitality. The latter has given the club some delightful evenings, in which gentlemen participated. Fine music is always a feature, the membership comprising many well-known amateurs and women whose work has reached beyond the club.

Altogether, the Friday Morning Club may be said to exemplify the gentle art of club-living, the severe and the technical, the rigid and the hustling, being conspicuous by their absence. The present presiding officer is Mrs. Joseph Sartori, a young woman of tact and business ability. Under her leadership a stock company has been formed for the erection of a club-house. The location has been selected near the centre of the city, and will cost, when completed, about twenty-five thousand dollars. It is expected that it will become the central home for all women's organizations.



HOME OF MRS. C. M. SEVERANCE, LOS ANGELES, CAL.

The Century Club.—In the report from California, at the first biennial of the General Federation, in 1892, four clubs were represented. These were the Century Club, of San Francisco; the Ruskin Art Club, of Los Angeles; the Friday Morning Club, of the same city, and the Pacific Coast Woman's Press Association.

The Century Club was organized in the summer of 1888. Initial steps towards forming a club had already been taken by a number of progressive women of San Francisco. They had watched the development of club life in the East, and a visit of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe to San Francisco, in June of that year, crystallized the sentiment, already formed, into actual fact.

In response to invitation, Mrs. Howe met about eighty representative women at the residence of Mrs. A. A. Sargent, on a day in June. A temporary organization was formed during this meeting, and the following women were appointed as a committee to draft a constitution: Mrs. E. L. Campbell, chairman; Miss A. M. Fulton, secretary; Mrs. Geo. Davidson, Mrs. Edward W. Townsend, Mrs. E. Everett, Miss Anna W. Beaver, Miss H. M. Skidmore, Miss Sarah D. Hamlin, Miss Cordelia S. Kirkland, Miss Ellen Sargent.

Three months later, in September, 1888, those who had been present at the previous meeting were reconvened at the house of Mrs. B. F. Norris, when the constitution that had been framed by the above-named committee, was formally adopted. On the same day a board of officers and directors were elected. The list was as follows: President, Mrs. P. A. Hearst; vice-presidents, Mrs. E. L. Campbell, Mrs. John M. Burnett, Mrs. L. L. Baker, Dr. Emma Sutro Merritt; corresponding secretary, Miss Catherine H. Hittell; recording secretary, Miss A. M. Fulton; assistant recording secretary, Miss C. S. Kirkland; treasurer, Miss Anna P. Greer; auditor, Mrs. Geo. Davidson; directors, Mrs. A. L. Bancroft, Miss Harriet M. Skidmore, Mrs. A. A. Sargent, Mrs. Horace Wilson, Miss Sarah D. Hamlin.

The object of the association, as defined by the constitution, was "to secure the advantages arising from a free interchange of thought and from coöperation among women."

The Executive Committee, and all the officers, were made a board of directors, with the power to elect or reject candidates. A unique provision of this constitution defined the status of "honorary" members, who were endowed with but one right: that of entering



MISS SARAH D. HAMLIN,
A Founder of the Century Club, San
Francisco



CENTURY CLUB BUILDING, SAN FRANCISCO

the club-rooms. The club-rooms had not as yet, however, been obtained; nor had the new organization received a name. The meetings were held at various private houses, and so much importance was attached to the style and title under which the new organization should be introduced to the world, that much time was spent in the discussion of the various names presented. Every member was invited to assist with suggestions,

and it was from a long roll of titles that the Century Club of California was finally selected and adopted by a large majority vote.

At the close of the first year Mrs. Hearst generously offered to pay \$125 per month as rent for one year, provided a suitable home could be secured. The search was, of course, crowned with success. Annual dues were increased from ten to twelve dollars, and the initiation fee increased to twenty dollars. By a unanimous vote it was agreed to join the newly formed General Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Hearst was sent as delegate to the ratification convention in New York, in 1890, and had the honor of being elected the first treasurer of the General Federation. By the time the club had reached its birthday it had become an undoubted power. Its membership had almost reached its limit of two hundred. Its reading-room was well supplied with volumes of reference, as well as current literature, and it had a surplus in the bank of \$2,000.

A most import-



CENTURY CLUB, SAN FRANCISCO—INTERIOR VIEW

ant factor of the club has been, from the outset, its committees, who are appointed by the president. Attractive programmes are offered on every Wednesday afternoon, and it is an open question which meets with the most favor. Special lines of study are not attempted, but there is every effort to develop home talent, and the Committees on Art and Literature, Science, Education, and Practical Aims have been peculiarly fortunate in securing valuable papers by the learned professors of the universities, as well as by many distinguished visitors. Too much praise cannot be accorded the Committee on Formal Debate. These discussions cover a wide and varied field; politics and theology being alone prohibited. These debates are conducted with marked ability. The most timid of the club's members have developed a surprising readiness in addressing an audience with clearness and conviction. A glance at the committee work shows a large number of papers by women of the club. It will be seen that they furnished many of the most important scientific and literary essays; and the fact that the number of such papers increases year by year is the best proof of the power of women's clubs to educate and develop woman's ability. Such clubs are the instruments for broadening information on a vast number of topics, for teaching women to reason, for rendering their knowledge available, and for fitting them for the responsibilities of home as well as of public life. Perhaps one of the pleasantest features of these occasions is the pride evinced by all the members when a paper, denoting more than ordinary ability, is presented by one of their number.

The woman who has been from the first the moving spirit, the active worker, too, in forming the Chicago Woman's Club, is Miss Sarah D. Hamlin, a woman of broad intelligence and great personal magnetism. She is recognized as the good genius of the club.

The Century has indeed been fortunate in its leaders; from its first president, Mrs. Phœbe A. Hearst, to its later one, Mrs. Sada B. Cornwall. The list includes Mrs. A. L. Bancroft, who succeeded Mrs. Hearst; Mrs. Henry Gibbons, Jr., Mrs. Abby Perkins Cheney, Mrs. Horace Davis, and Mrs. John F. Swift.

Mrs. Cornwall was a charter member, who served on the Committee of



MRS. ABBY PERKINS CHENEY,
Fourth President Century Club



MRS. S. B. CORNWALL,
Ex-President Century Club

Formal Debate, and as chairman of the Social Committee and as corresponding secretary and director, before being made president. She was very just in her rulings, tactful and gracious in manner, generous to others, yet extremely conscientious in her own sense of duty; an ideal woman, in short, who led by the natural desire of every one to follow in her steps.

The club has now reached a point of constantly increasing influence and broadening aim. Although a rigorously governed body, with law and order pervading it as with an atmosphere, it is a centre of the most beautiful hospitality. No man or woman of distinction visits San Francisco without the desire of being received by the Century Club. For the members it is a chief source of social and intellectual attraction.

A charming feature of the annual reports are the summaries given of letters and other evidences of club intercourse and fellowship. There is a delightful homogeneity which recognizes neither mistakes nor shortcomings, but takes the will, the good intention, and puts all into the crucible of charity, bringing out as a result the finest flower of good comradeship. The violet is the flower and color of the Century Club.

A club song, written by Mrs. H. M. Skidmore, and dedicated to Mrs. Cornwall, is sung to music composed by Mrs. Ada Neigll on anniversary occasions. The election of officers for the Century Club for 1898 resulted in the choice of: President, Miss A. W. Beaver; first vice-president, Mrs. M. W. Kincaid; recording secretary, Mrs. J. H. Dickinson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. Gerberding; treasurer, Mrs. P. N. Lilienthal.

The annual report of the ex-president, Mrs. Cornwall, recommended "that the club provide itself with a limited number of 'associate members' from the talented women of the community, whose hours are so given to their pursuits in life as to prevent frequent attendance, but whose association would be a mutual benefit to the club and themselves through name, spirit, and interest." Also that the plan or results of section work might occasionally be reported to the larger body, thus putting all in touch with the advantages offered.

The president cordially acknowledged that during her term of administration there had not been a heart or hand which had not, in some way, shown appreciation, coöperation, or helpful suggestion.

The first president, Mrs. Phœbe A. Hearst, has been unanimously elected honorary president.

The Pacific Coast Woman's Press Association owes its origin to the effort made by Mrs. E. T. Y. Parkhurst, who, in the summer of 1890, corresponded with women journalists in different parts of the State, with a view to their organization in a central body. This was effected in September of the same year, with Mrs. N. B. Eyster as president and Mrs. Parkhurst as corresponding secretary. The name chosen was intended to cover the Pacific slope, and it has well fulfilled its objects. Mrs. Parkhurst was unfortunately removed by death after two years of faithful service. She was a woman of high ideals and strong, magnetic personality. The stamp of this fine character was left upon the association, and undoubtedly did much to give it direction. The professional women on the western side of the Rocky Mountains were separated by distance, isolation, and ignorance of each other. The object of the organization, as stated in the constitution, was and is "the promotion of acquaintance, good-fellowship, and coöperation among women writers, and the advancement of their professional interests." Membership was not limited to newspaper writers, but any woman engaged in journalistic or literary work, or as an illustrator of the public press, should be eligible for active membership.

Any woman interested in literary or artistic work, though not a journalist, could become an associate member. Honorary members are admitted by unanimous vote to the number of five each year. All applications must be endorsed by two members. Life membership is secured by the payment of fifty dollars. Among the life members are Miss Ina Donna Coolbrith, poet laureate, and Ruth Emilie Parkhurst, infant daughter of the founder of the association. Among the honorary members are Mrs. Jessie Benton Fremont, Madame Helena Modjeska, of California, and Mrs. Lindon Bates, of Chicago.

The objects of the association, as set forth in the constitution, have so far been very happily attained. Acquaintance is facilitated; good-fellowship and coöperation established. At its business meetings, on the second Monday of every month, there is opportunity for the reading of papers and for addressés and discussions by the members; at the social meetings, on the fourth Monday of every month, a complete literary and musical programme is offered by the association to its friends and the public.

The work of the Pacific Coast Woman's Press Association is distinctively journalistic and literary, advocating no views and lending itself to no scheme of



MRS. NELLIE B. EYSTER,
First President Pacific Coast
Woman's Press Association



MRS. EMILIE T. V. PARKHURST,
Founder Pacific Coast Woman's Press
Association

propaganda. The members are progressive women all over the State, and many of them have a reputation beyond its borders.

Mrs. Sarah Cooper, the leader in kindergarten work in San Francisco, was an active member until her death.

Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson, a woman of original genius and power, was a member from the beginning, and was one of the presidents.

A southern California branch of the Pacific Coast Woman's Press Association was formed in Los Angeles in 1893, and the organization was also active in promoting the mid-winter International Exposition and the Woman's Congress Association of the Pacific Coast, following the Chicago World's Fair.

This congress, held in May, 1894, was in session for an entire week, and brought together a large number of women from the East as well as from different parts of California and the West.

Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper was president of the Congress Association, and Mrs. Helen Campbell and Mrs. Charlotte Perkins Stetson were among its active promoters. The present officers are: President, Mrs. P. T. Dickenson, of Alameda, a woman of literary reputation of the East before her removal with her husband, Colonel P. T. Dickenson, to California. The vice-president is Miss Ina D. Coolbrith, the poet; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. B. Foster; treasurer, Mrs. F. F. Victor; recording secretary, Miss A. G. Friedlander.

Southern California Association, originally a branch of the Pacific Coast Woman's Press Association, is now an independent organization, and has become a member of the General Federation. It holds two meetings a month; the first, an afternoon business meeting, at which a paper is read relating to the practical side of literary work; the second, an evening meeting, and consists of a short literary and musical programme, the



MISS INA D. COOLBRITH,
Vice-President Pacific Coast Woman's Press Ass'n

remainder of the time being spent in social intercourse. The objects of the association are to promote the interests of its members and to foster acquaintance among them. None but professional writers or illustrators are eligible to membership.

Its organization was effected with the following list of officers: President, Mrs. Emma Seckle Marshall; first vice-president, Mrs. M. Burton Williamson; second vice-president, Mrs. Jeanne Peet; recording secretary, Mrs. Carl Schutze; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Clara Spaulding Brown; treasurer, Mrs. Alice Moore McComas; chairman Press Committee, Mrs. Mary E. Hart; chairman Programme Committee, Mrs. Mary M. Bowman; county secretaries, Mrs. M. C. Frederick, Mrs. Theodosia B. Shepherd, Mrs. Mary Lynde Craig, Mrs. Susie E. Munn, and Mrs. Rose Hartwick Thorpe.

Kingsley Art Club of Sacramento was formed in March, 1892, at the instigation of Mrs. Alice M. Higgins, who, in a spirit of real devotion, undertook to create and deepen whatever interest in art existed in the community.

The object from the beginning was not restricted to any one branch of study, but was announced as "the creation and development of artistic spirit in the members, and the dissemination of artistic sentiment generally in the community; thus elevating the tone of society, improving the mind, and properly stimulating the imaginative faculty."

The membership was limited to fifty, with not more than ten additional as associates, and ten others honorary. The name was given in honor of Mr. Elbridge Kingsley, the New England painter-engraver, who has proved himself a most generous and kindly godfather.

The Kingsley Art Club has been especially fortunate in its environment. The State library has been of inestimable value,



MRS. P. T. DICKENSON,
(Hester A. Benedict)
President Pacific Coast Woman's Press Association, San Francisco



MRS. MINNIE V. GADEN,
Secretary Pacific Coast Woman's Press Ass'n

both in its reference books and in its specimens of all kinds of black-and-white art. Another help has been the Crocker Art Gallery, the gift of Mrs. E. B. Crocker to the city of Sacramento, containing a large number of very valuable paintings.

The club quarters were originally in Mrs. Higgins' pleasant home, but are now in the capitol, in a large room in the State pavilion.

The first years were given to studies of American art, beginning with Copley, Gilbert Stuart, Peale, and others, and coming down to Nast and the modern illustrators. Following this, the club began studies in early civilization and ancient art, under such divisions as: Studies in Egyptian Civilization and Archæology; Ancient Arabia; History and Art of Ancient Chaldæ; Assyrian Monuments and Civilization; Phœnicia and her Colonies; History of Israel and Art in Judæ; Studies in Ancient Persia; Asianic Archæology; Heroic Age in Greece and Mycenæan Civilization.

The outlines of Greek and Roman studies, as pursued by the Kingsley Art Club, were comprehensive and of great value to the student and serious lover of ancient art, but few clubs would care to give the time necessary to conquering their difficulties. Mrs. Alice M. Higgins has been, however, a devoted leader, and the club has always maintained a high standard. It joined the General Federation in 1893, and still remains devoted to its main subject. Its president (1897-98) is Mrs. H. Weinstock.

The meetings are on alternate Mondays.



MRS. ALICE M. HIGGINS,
Founder Kingsley Art Club

The Woman's Club of Santa Barbara.

This is a small social and literary organization, interesting to its members, and perhaps others who make its acquaintance, but not ambitious of competing with the more varied interests of larger clubs.

The aim was to bring the narrow cliques of a small town into friendly and intelligent relation, and by regular meetings and mutual interest in some intellectual work, cultivate friendships of more value, and in less time, than by making calls.

A stimulating mental atmosphere has grown out of this modest purpose. The club has even risen to a degree of civic usefulness, by advocating or combating certain public measures before the City Council.

The respect paid to its attitude on any question is due as much to its moderation

as to its wise point of view, and has established an influence which seems hardly justified by its quiet, non-aggressive policy.

It has no year books, and cannot be said to have a founder, for it grew out of a "chance suggestion" made at a little meeting of a small, irregular class.

The president is Mrs. Frances A. Baxter, a woman of fine culture and great insight. In her personality she combines dignity with a rare charm of manner.

The Eothen Club, East Oakland, is almost unique in the history of women's clubs of this generation. The majority of them have for their avowed object the improvement of the mind, the social features being always secondary.

The Eothen is purely social. It starts off with the assertion that "there is no function in life so recklessly left to take care of itself as pleasure." The object of the club is pleasure on a moral basis. The number of members is limited to thirty, divided into ten committees of three members each. The entertainments are receptions, balls, suppers, without wine or liquors of any kind, but well supplied with music, flowers, and service; the latter mostly contributed from the households of the members.

"Without trying, or even intending," writes the historian, "we have become a social power, and our entertainments a guide and an authority. Only married ladies are eligible to this club, which was founded by two prominent women of East Oakland in the autumn of 1887. If we have developed any object, it is that of bringing the young into pleasant social relations with their parents and elders; and this has been accomplished in a refined way that is, in itself, a moral factor."

State Federation.—The clubs in California are now discussing the possibilities of a federated union of the women's clubs of the State, and this may be accomplished before these lines appear in print. At present a state organization is a thing of the future; and the historian lacks the gathered knowledge of facts, and the unity and comprehension of clubs and club work, that come with the formation and centralization of State interests in a federated body.

All there is to show is the work and aims of a few isolated clubs. Unity of purpose growing out of a wide diversity of interest has not yet crystallized itself into form. That it will there is no doubt, but not until after this has taken place can the record of California be made complete.



MRS. FRANCES A. BAXTER,
President Woman's Club of Santa
Barbara

Kindergarten Work in San Francisco.—It was upon the Pacific coast that the kindergarten plan of work, as outlined by Froebel, first assumed public importance. Its early German exponent in this country, Miss Marwedel, failing to find in New York the interest and support necessary to a prosecution of her work, went to San Francisco, and there laid the foundation of a movement which revolutionized the early education of the child.

The establishment of free kindergartens became a favorite form of benevolence with wealthy women, and before any clubs were formed there



MRS. SARAH B. COOPER

were already seven free kindergarten schools in the city of San Francisco, fostered and maintained by such women as Mrs. S. B. Crocker, Mrs. Stanwood, and others known for their liberality.

Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin wrote some of her first stories for a kindergarten school in San Francisco, and an ardent supporter and active worker in the kindergarten movement, afterwards its most active leader, was found in Mrs. Sarah B. Cooper, treasurer, 1892 to 1896, of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Mrs. Cooper's character and influence undoubtedly did

much to strengthen the cause of the children, which she had deeply at heart. When the first kindergarten association was formed she became its president, and so remained until her death, which was considered a calamity by all who had ever known her or been connected with her in any field of work.

The wisdom and far-sight which sowed the seed of the kindergartens in San Francisco, influenced the educational development of the entire State, and have been a most powerful factor in the lives and usefulness of its citizens.



Colorado

STATE FEDERATION

The Colorado Federation of Women's Clubs was formed in Denver, April 5, 1895, pursuant to a call issued by the Woman's Club of Denver to the women's clubs of the State to meet for that purpose.

Mrs. Charles Dennison, vice-president of the Woman's Club, called the convention to order, and welcomed the representatives of thirty-seven clubs.

*"Each shall give
you his grains of gold
after the washing."* Mrs. T. H. Moore, chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation, made the opening address. Mrs. S. R. Ashley was made temporary chairman, and Mrs. Mary T. Welch, of Fort Collins, temporary secretary.

Committees on nomination, enrolment, and constitution were formed; reports from the local clubs followed; and a constitution was adopted which provides that only literary, educational, or study clubs, or those in which these features are most prominent, will be admitted to the federation; that the constitutions of the clubs desiring to join must be forwarded with the application for membership, and that a majority vote of those present at the meeting of the directors admits them. Each club is represented by the president and one delegate at the annual meeting, the alternates to have full power in the absence of the president or delegate. The Board of Directors is composed of the six general officers, and the presidents of all the clubs belonging to the federation.



MRS. S. R. ASHLEY

The first elected officers were: President, Mrs. S. R. Ashley, Denver; first vice-president, Mrs. J. S. Gale, Greeley; recording secretary, Mrs. C. A. Eldredge, Colorado Springs; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. D. Thatcher, Pueblo; treasurer, Mrs. G. A. Scoville, Durango; auditor, Mrs. Curtis Smith, Creede.

The first annual meeting was held at Colorado Springs, October 1 and 2, 1895. Mrs. Henrotin, president of the General Federation, was present during the first day's session and delivered an able and helpful address.

The subjects for discussion at this session were literature, education, and sociology. The titles of the three central papers around which discussions were grouped were: "The Trend of Popular Literature," "The Child and the State," "Does the Brotherhood of Man Necessitate a Change in the Social Order?" Each theme was well and ably presented, eliciting under the different heads lively discussion.

The influence of women writers in the development of modern literature; to what extent may we accept the conclusions of others without personal investigation? literature for the young; the indiscriminate reading of new books, covered the first paper.

Following the second paper the discussion was upon heredity and environment; the relation of home and school; how far can compulsory education be carried without endangering the liberty of the individual? concentration of work; place of ethics in education; the evolution of the child.

Altruism *versus* individualism; labor and capital; art and labor, naturally followed the third paper.

There was also a symposium on the value of literary clubs. The voice of every club in membership was heard in the discussion of one or more subjects on this programme, proving that each club had given it thoughtful consideration, and had determined to help make the meeting one of interest and profit. While some speeches were more entertaining than others, all were to the point, bright, and clever.

With the full rights of citizenship has come to the women of Colorado a keen sense of responsibility concerning existing evils, and while political clubs are not admitted to the federation, the literary clubs have almost without exception enlarged their curriculum to include the study of social and political economics and the discussion of current events. They also conduct their meetings according to parliamentary law. Each club has a well-considered, systematically arranged programme of study to which it strictly adheres, but at the first federation session the resolution "to do some practical work in connection with the clubs" was adopted, and has borne fruit beyond the most sanguine expectation.

"Pingree gardening," free baths, night schools, sewing schools with mending, cutting, fitting, and making garments, respectable lodgings for girls out of employment, evening social and literary clubs for young women employed through the day, city improvement societies, and kindred works owe their existence to literary clubs.

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The earnest desire of club women to intelligently inform themselves concerning needed reforms is so evident that most semi-political and social questions which are to be suggested to legislation are referred to them for consideration and discussion with the view of creating intelligent public sentiment in their favor.

At the second annual meeting held in Denver, October 10 and 11, 1896, the number of clubs in the federation had grown to fifty-eight, with a membership of more than two thousand women. The principal paper read on this occasion was entitled "What Constitutes Good Citizenship?" The subject was ably and interestingly handled, and was followed by a strong discussion of the following points: The best training for citizenship; parliamentary training; business training; home, the preparatory school; are both parents equally responsible? responsibility of our educational system; educational value of citizenship; ethical influences of this decade; present political methods; are indirect methods necessary? wherein do the duties of men and women differ? Gentlemen were present at all the meetings. An editor from one of the neighboring cities, whose paper was one of the few in the State that opposed the bill for woman's suffrage before its passage, was present at every session, and subsequently said in his paper: "These women represent the best brains of the State. If they are true representatives of all the women of the State we may have no fear for the future of Colorado, for these are the mothers of our future citizens." That is a fair statement, for ninety-five per cent. of the delegates were married women.

The sessions of the federation were held in Unity Church, on Broadway and Nineteenth Street. The platform was decorated with flowers, and over the president's chair were draped two American flags, with a large-size badge of the federation, on which stood out prominently its motto: "Unity in Diversity."

There were three things that were especially interesting. First, the discussion on good citizenship, Friday evening. It was notable that more interest was shown in the home as a preparation for good citizenship than in any other of the six or seven sub-divisions of this general topic. The second matter of special interest was the election of officers, Saturday morning. It was beautifully done. If there were any real rivalries, they were not apparent. One of the noteworthy points was the close adherence to parliamentary law. No short cuts were allowed. Every officer was elected by ballot, and nothing out of the regular order was permitted even by unanimous consent. The third and by far the most important matter of special interest was the women themselves; the brightness, clear-headedness, intelligence, enthusiasm, courtesy, grace, the thousand and one things that go to make up that which

for want of a better word we call "charm," were all there. Of some of them it might fairly be said, "To know them is a liberal education."

The officers elected for the ensuing year were: President, Mrs. M. D. Thatcher, of Pueblo; first vice-president, Mrs. J. S. Gale, of Greeley; recording secretary, Mrs. C. A. Eldredge, of Colorado Springs; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. C. Richardson, of Pueblo; treasurer, Mrs. H. M. Sheets, of Cañon City; auditor, Mrs. C. W. Belser, of Boulder; State correspondent for General Federation, Mrs. S. R. Ashley, of Denver. Mrs. Gale and Mrs. Eldredge were reelected; the rest of the officers were new to their positions.

The third annual meeting was held in Pueblo, October 28 and 29, 1897. The address of welcome was made by Mrs. C. C. Stein, of Norton Art Club; the response by Mrs. C. W. Belser, of Boulder. A large number of clubs had been admitted both to the State and General Federations during the year, raising the whole number in the State Federation to ninety-five, upwards of sixty of which were represented.

The president spoke of the great fruitage the resolution of reciprocity had borne among the clubs, and how eagerly the study clubs had adopted the idea of doing some practical work in the form of mending schools, sewing schools, free baths for children, and gardening.

The reports of the recording and corresponding secretaries were given by those officials, and the treasurer's report in her absence was read by the auditor and showed a balance of \$76.

The remainder of the morning was occupied with reports from clubs, viz.: the Cliolian of Montrose, organized in 1895, the outgrowth of a history class; the Norton Art Club of Pueblo, four years old, but only within the year federated—it studies Gothic art, and began with its home, France; the Sphinx Club, Denver, began with the study of Grecian history; the Boulder Fortnightly is thirteen years old, is purely literary, and has the State library of ten thousand volumes for reference; the Friends in Council, Cañon City; the Wednesday Art Club, Colorado Springs; and the Woman's Literary Club of Colorado Springs.

A letter from Mrs. Henrotin was read by the corresponding secretary which was full of kindly suggestions to the Colorado Federation, and in which she asked that a committee of three be appointed from this federation



MRS. M. D. THATCHER,
President Colorado Federation

to act with a committee of the General Federation in outlining a course of study.

The first important paper was upon "Education: Old Methods and New," by Mrs. Henry Wright, of Northside Woman's Club, Denver. The discussion following gave five minutes each to child study; manners and morals; kindergarten *versus* high schools; music and art in the public schools; modern fads in the public schools.

Mrs. S. S. Platt, of the Woman's Club of Denver, gave a paper on the "Favoring Influence of the Large Club on Social Life"; and there was an interesting discussion following a paper on "Patriotism—Past and Present." A discussion of "Magazine Literature," led by Mrs. E. C. Stevens, of Trinidad, and a symposium upon "The Progress of Women," closed the literary part of the programme.

Later came a report from the council of the General Federation held at Nashville, by Mrs. S. R. Ashley; and a report of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution, by the chairman, Mrs. C. A. Eldredge, of Colorado Springs.

The amendments provided that meetings shall be held annually in October. Art. 6, Sec. 1.—The election of officers shall take place at every alternate annual meeting. Art. 6, Sec. 2.—The president and corresponding secretary shall reside in the same town. All of which were adopted.

The election of officers followed the adoption of the amendments to the constitution, and the entire board were reelected for a second term.

A rising vote of thanks was offered to Mrs. S. R. Ashley for the excellent work done by her for the State Federation, and she was unanimously chosen to succeed herself as chairman of State correspondence.

The meetings were held at the First Presbyterian Church, and the reception to delegates, upon the evening of October 28th, at the Minnequa Club house.

The women's clubs of Colorado are broadening the horizon of their members; they are helping women to an intelligent participation in public affairs, and are uplifting not only their members, but others also, to a higher plane of thinking and living.

Of the ninety clubs, more or less, in the Colorado State Federation, Denver counts twenty-four, Pueblo nine, Colorado Springs six, Greeley five, Durango four, Longmont three, Boulder three; nine towns are represented by two clubs each, and sixteen by one.

The membership ranges from ten to seven hundred and fifty, the Denver Woman's Club reaching this altitude. The Northside Woman's Club of Denver numbers two hundred and fifty, and the Woman's Club of Pueblo two hundred and fifty. The Denver section of the National Council of Jew-

ish Women reaches two hundred, and the Woman's Educational Society of Colorado College, two hundred. All the rest are below the one hundred limit. There are four department clubs, and several that make a specialty of music.

The majority devote time to current events in connection with the study of history and literature. Forty-one belong to the General Federation—increased by more than a third since date of writing, in anticipation of the Biennial.

The chairman of the educational committee of the State Federation is Mrs. S. S. Platt, Denver; and the news correspondent, Mrs. C. C. Richardson, of Pueblo.

The latest note of progress received from the State chairman of correspondence says: "Our State Federation has grown to number one hundred clubs, and there are now fifty-six clubs in Colorado which belong to the General Federation. The following have been added since I sent you the last list:

"Woman's Club, Victor; Cleo Club, Durango; Fortnightly Club, La Junta; Woman's Club, Ouray; Norton Art Club, Pueblo; Monday Musical Club, Pueblo; Wednesday Musical Club, Cañon City; Cliolian Club, Montrose; Saturday Club, Walsenburg; Woman's Club, Eaton; Cliothalian Club, Greeley; Fortnightly Club, Pueblo; Twenty-second Avenue Study Club, Denver; Fortnightly Club, Durango; Woman's Club, Pueblo; Fortnightly Club, Aspen; Shakespeare Club, Aspen; Young Ladies' Clio Club, Denver; Appender Club, Denver; Fourth Avenue Reading Club, Denver; Four O'Clock Club, Denver.

"SUSAN RILEY ASHLEY,
"State Chairman for Colorado."



Woman's Club of Denver.—In the spring of 1892, an ex-president of the Woman's Club of Chicago, while visiting Denver, was invited by Mrs. Charles E. Dickinson to speak before a gathering of women at her house. Inspired by her account of the Chicago club and what it had accomplished, the desirability of starting a similar organization in Denver was discussed, but no definite action followed. For various reasons the time was not ripe. The numerous

small clubs seemed to fill the wants of club women. The advanced women were absorbed in a finally successful effort to bring suffrage to their sex, and the society women were engrossed in a round of luncheons, teas, and dinners.

*"In essentials unity,
in non-essentials liberty,
in all things charity."*

But the spring of 1894 saw all this changed. By a large majority the men had given Colorado women their political rights, and the panic of 1893



MRS. SARAH S. PLATT,
President Woman's Club, Denver, Colo.

had taken away their material possessions. With new duties and no money came new demands and interests. The club women felt the time had come for larger things and greater activities. The suffragists could not sink back into inactivity, and the society woman, unable longer to entertain, eagerly hailed this opportunity to meet her fellow women. The time was now ripe for a large club on broad lines.

This, Mrs. Charles Denison, long interested in club work, seemed first to appreciate, and set about to accomplish. Realizing that it would need the strength and wisdom of more than one woman, she decided to invite to her house to lunch a small parliamentary class of which she was a member, and place the matter before them. After her guests had seated themselves about the table, she told them why they had been called together, and gave her reasons for believing that a large club could be successfully organized. The hearty response she met with made her feel that her intuition had been correct. Immediately the dozen women present proceeded to ways and means. A temporary organization was formed to put the machinery in motion, and a committee on constitution appointed.

This parliamentary class was composed of eleven from the Denver Fortnightly and one from the Monday Club of Denver. Each guest prepared a list of women she would ask to become charter members, and on Saturday, April 21, 1894, all those invited met in the parlors of Unity Church, and the Woman's Club of Denver was formally organized.

So widespread, however, was the interest and so great the pressure brought to bear for membership, it was soon seen that the originators must respond to the demand against exclusiveness. To the weekly meetings that followed to complete the organization all women were invited, but only those who by a certain date had paid the entrance fee of \$5 were considered members and entitled to vote. The roll started with a list of 225 of the most representative women of Denver. Following the plan of the Chicago Woman's Club, the work was divided into six departments with a chairman at the head of each. These six chairmen and three additional members from each department, with the officers, constitute the Board of Directors.

From the whole club has been formed, to meet regularly, a choral class of one hundred women; a class of two hundred to study parliamentary law, and

several elocution classes to train the members to use their voices so as to be heard by the seven hundred women who constitute the membership of the club.

In the two years of its existence the club has entertained, at the request of the Board of Education, the National Educational Association when it met here in the summer of 1895. It has given a reception to Miss Susan B. Anthony and Rev. Anna Shaw, inviting to meet them all the women of Denver. Blanche Cox, of the Salvation Army, and the great labor leader, John Burns, have spoken before it; while Mrs. Henrotin, president of the Federated Clubs, was hospitably entertained. At its invitation the State Federation of Women's Clubs was organized in the spring of 1895, and is now a union of ninety literary associations throughout the State.

The past two years the club has voted a generous donation to the city missionary towards his Christmas dinner to the poor, and one hundred members, headed by the president, volunteered their services to wait upon the two thousand self-invited guests. Also, through a committee appointed by the club, the State Library secured for the first time in the history of Colorado an appropriation from the Legislature.

The first year ten dollars was voted to each department to defray incidental expenses, but as several strongly desired to do practical work and did not wish to expend their energies in raising necessary funds, it was voted that each department could call upon the treasury to the extent of one hundred dollars. Thus generously equipped financially, they have been able to accomplish much good.

The work of the six departments has been along the following lines:

The Home department began its record by inviting Mrs. Ewing to give a course of lectures on cooking to the members of the club for the benefit of the Young Women's Christian Association. The lectures netted about two hundred dollars. One of the members made an abstract of the State laws affecting the property rights of women. Five hundred copies of this abstract were printed and sold, and the proceeds put into an exquisite banner which the department gave the club. To this department the club owes the suggestion of the motto, afterwards adopted as that of the club, and the colors, which are the blue of the sky and the white of the snow-capped mountains.



MRS. NETTIE E. CASPAR,
Vice-President Woman's Club, Denver,
Colo.

The department, at the meeting of the Legislature in 1895, endorsed a bill for the equal guardianship of children. The law in force gave the father power to will away his children, even to the unborn child. The bill amended the law, giving the mother an equal right with the father. This year the department has formed from its members a class to take a course in kitchen gardening, with the object of the members becoming teachers in the lower districts of the city, and showing the poorer women how to make better homes.

The Educational department has rather endeavored to educate itself upon all matters pertaining to the elevation of the young, and hopes to be ready and able, when the time comes, to lend its aid to further any or all reforms in the public schools. In the summer of 1895 it established a vacation school for the primary grades to study sloyd, music, and science. It was a great success, and excited much favorable commendation from the National Educational Association, assembled here that summer. For practical work the department endowed a scholarship in a university for the education of a poor girl.

The owner of one of the great dailies offered to the Woman's Club the proceeds from the 1894 Christmas edition of the paper if the members of the club provided the reading matter and superintended the printing of it. The Philanthropic department accepted the offer, and though all the club shared in the work, the thousand dollars made was given to the Philanthropic department. With this generous sum it began its active existence. It established the Woman's Club Industrial Rooms, to assist worthy but needy women, and several hundred were helped during the hard winter. A dress-making school then followed, at which nine girls were graduated. The ensuing summer, with the coöperation of the county, it provided a "Pingree" potato farm. Forty-four families were assisted, and it was gratifying to note that only one of them applied to the county the following winter for help. The next summer there were eighty applicants for a potato patch. This year the department is interesting itself in establishing a Penny Provident fund in the missions, schools, and stores of the city. Its appropriation from the club treasury it has given to worthy but needy philanthropic institutions.

The Science and Philosophy department has devoted itself principally to courses of study. It chose the first year "Political Economy"; the second, Fiske's "Cosmic Philosophy," and this year the "Evolution of Society." One paper on "The Modern Monetary Systems of the World" was considered so excellent that the department published it in pamphlet form at its own expense. The first two years it undertook no outside work, as none especially appealed to it, but this winter it has responded to a call made by club women in country towns for reference books to aid them in their studies. Arrangements were made by the department with the public library to fur-

nish such books as were needed, a stipulated sum being paid by the department to the library for their use.

The Art and Literature department for two years has been thoroughly studying Spain and Holland. Its course of study was adapted from Farrar's "Travel Class Topics," and profusely illustrated with stereopticon views. Remembering those less fortunate, they gave a stereopticon entertainment to the children from the orphan asylums, and by a series of pictures told the story of Holland.

It has compiled a book of Spanish proverbs, the proceeds of which go towards assisting the department Committee on Club Extension in its work. Realizing the advantages derived from club organization, they feel very desirous to extend this beneficial work to other women less fortunately placed than themselves, and are forming clubs among women who on account of health, occupation, or other cause are unable to join existing clubs. This, and a small circulating picture gallery which they have started in the public schools, comprises their practical work.

In the Reform department, while the members have pursued a course of study on municipal government, their chief energies have been devoted to securing better laws and seeing that those on the statute books were enforced. The department has spent much time in preparing a new primary law to secure better nominations for public office, devoted much attention to obtaining municipal civil service reform, and formed an association to arouse in the citizens of Denver a desire for a cleaner, healthier city. That the work might be more systematically done, standing committees on Public Institutions, City Improvement, Temperance, Public Health, Press, Civil Service, and Legislation were formed. From the Civil Service Committee has grown a prosperous Civil Service Reform Association for the city, composed of both men and women. As the chairman of the Legislative Committee is a member of the Legislature, the department hopes to see the new primary law bill passed, and to help in securing a better city charter. Two years ago it succeeded in passing a bill raising the age of consent from fourteen to eighteen years. From this department has also grown the City Improvement Society, which numbers members from every department of the club. During the first year it was able to persuade the city authorities to put twenty men on the business streets to keep them clean during the day; to place two dozen rubbish boxes at the street corners and in the post-office, and to have copies of the ordinances on nuisances given to the policemen so they would be more intelligent about enforcing them. It succeeded in placing anti-expectoration notices in public buildings, elevators, street cars, and post-office, and with the coöperation of the Civic Federation placed seats at its own expense at the intersection of car lines. It also printed five thou-

sand circulars setting forth the aims of the society, which were distributed to householders through the children in the schools, the teachers in each grade being instructed to explain them to the pupils, and the part they could perform in making the city more clean and healthful.

That the club has been able to accomplish all the foregoing it feels is largely owing to the great executive ability of its boards and its fortunate choice of a president. Upon this choice it was felt the success or failure of the club largely depended. As several small clubs had been interested in the organization of this large one, to avoid any possible feeling of partiality it was deemed best not to elect a member of one of these clubs to the chief office. It seems to have been providentially led when it chose Mrs. Sarah S. Platt. The other offices were divided between the clubs interested. Owing to death in her family the president was unable to preside most of the first year, and her duties devolved upon the vice-president, Mrs. Charles Denison, who was obliged to assume the responsibility at a moment's notice. To quote the words of the president: "The first six months of the life of this club was the most crucial period of its existence, and it was owing to the faithfulness of the vice-president, her steadfast adherence to a preconceived ideal of what this club should be, and her able conduct of affairs at this time, that the Woman's Club of Denver occupies to-day its prominent position." Enthusiastically appreciating the great power for good of a large club, the president during her three years of office has been untiring in her devotion to its interests, never failing to be present at every club, department, or committee meeting, and always ready with a warm welcome to each of the seven hundred members.

ELLA S. DENISON.

ELLA A. MCNEIL.

ELIZA F. ROUTT.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Woman's Club of Denver, held on Friday, October 8, 1897, a building committee was appointed to investigate and report upon the matter of securing a building site and constructing a club house.

The Building Committee consisted of Carrie O. Kistler, chairman; Sarah H. Walling, secretary; Mary M. Grant, Julia V. Wells, A. J. Peavey, Modesta W. Mott, and Annie L. Hersey.

To this committee the name of Mrs. J. D. Whitmore was added, and also that of a member from each of the departments of club work. A report was submitted and adopted, by a majority of 146 to 49.

At a special called meeting, available sites and plans were submitted, and the work of selling the bonds, of three denominations, to run for ten years, was begun.

The desire is to push the work to completion before the biennial of June, 1898, and receive the General Federation in a club house owned and operated by the Denver Woman's Club.

The representatives from Denver to the third biennial, held in Louisville, were the president of the Woman's Club, Mrs. S. S. Platt, and Mrs. J. B. Grant; from the Northside Woman's Club, its president, Mrs. M. Hudson; from the Monday Literary Club, its president, Mrs. C. M. Walker, and its delegate, Mrs. M. S. Turnbull; from the State Federation, Mrs. S. R. Ashley. These ladies presented the claims of Denver to the biennial of 1898 so vigorously that it became the choice of the Executive Council over Boston, Greater New York, and Omaha.

The decision was not only received with great satisfaction in Denver, but throughout the entire State of Colorado. The able delegate from the Woman's Club, Mrs. James B. Grant, was made the president of the biennial local board, and as early as April, 1897, twelve local committees were formed to work in conjunction with the Executive Committee of the General Federation for the conduct of the biennial in 1898.

The chairmen of these committees were drawn from the representatives of all the important clubs of Denver. Mrs. W. G. Fisher, of the Fortnightly, is chairman of the Entertainment Committee; Mrs. J. C. M. Walker, of the Monday Club, Transportation; Mrs. T. C. Chase, Excursions; Mrs. John L. McNeil, of the Fortnightly, and ex-chairman of State correspondence for Colorado, Bureau of Information. Miss Laura Parsons, of the Northside Woman's Club, is the guide to hotels and boarding houses. Mrs. J. D. Whitmore and Mrs. W. H. Kistler, vice-president and chairman of the Literature Committee of the Woman's Club, have the credentials in charge;



MRS. JAMES D. WHITMORE,
First Vice-President Woman's Club, Denver,
Colo.



MRS. JAMES B. GRANT,
President Biennial Local Board, Denver,
Colo.



MRS. JOHN L. McNEIL,
Chairman Bureau Information, Biennial
Local Board, Denver, Colo.

Mrs. J. B. Belford, of the Clio Club, the badges, and Mrs. F. J. Mott, also of the Clio Club, the girl ushers and flowers.

The energetic chairman of the Press Committee is Miss Reynolds, of the *Rocky Mountain News*, and member of the Round Table, whose club page in the *News* has become a leading feature and of interest to all club women in Colorado. Mrs. G. L. Scott, of the Fortnightly, has the programme under her supervision, and Mrs. O. E. La Fevre, of the Monday Club, the finances.

The Advisory Committee of the local board consists of Mrs. Trumbull, treasurer of the General Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. S. R. Ashley, chairman of State correspondence, and a pioneer in the development of club life in Colorado; Mrs. M. D. Thatcher, the devoted State president, and Mrs. Sarah S. Platt, the fearless and able president of the Denver Woman's Club, which is now a body corporate of eight hundred women.

The officers and speakers of the General Federation will be entertained by the club women of Denver. The Woman's Club will keep open house with hearty hospitality from the Alpha to the Omega of the convention.

The Denver Fortnightly Club dates its organization back to 1881, when a group of women, who had met together weekly for reading and the purpose of mental improvement, crystallized their forces into the Denver Fortnightly Club. The organization was modelled upon the Chicago Fortnightly, which was preëminently a classical study club. Without confining itself to absolute limitations, the work of the Denver Fortnightly has been almost purely literary, and of a high order in this field.

It has discussed New England transcendentalism, the development of American literature, the personal element in philanthropy, the growth of civil liberty, the ideal American citizen, and many other topics of interest.

The object of the club is expressed as "the union of congenial minds for study and discussion; and the furtherance of good in such practical ways as may from time to time be presented to the notice of the society." This broad platform admits of the study of civic as well as literary questions, and the work is always thoughtful.

Such topics as the "Test of Ignorance," "Obligations of Leisure," the "Indebtedness of the Ideal to the Material," the "Origin and Dispersion of

the Human Race," the "Origin and Development of the American Aborigines," the "Middle Period of Woman's Life: its Advantages, Opportunities and Capabilities"—these questions, as well as the intelligent form given to more current and practical topics, show the thought, good reading, and experience which have been brought to bear upon the written and oral work of the club.

The year-book, with outlines of topics, is refined and scholarly; it is accompanied by a suggestive etching of Mount Evans, which is a feature of Denver, and shows among the names of members and former and present officers, Mrs. Ashley, the chairman of State correspondence for Colorado; Mrs. Jane O. Cooper, the first treasurer of the General Federation; Mrs. Ellen E. Mitchell, the student and scholar; Mrs. F. J. Bancroft, and many other names of distinction in the literary, art, and social world. The club is quiet in its work and ways, and totally unaffected by the stream of more active public life in which it shines like a literary jewel deep set.

The programme, under four standing committees; includes, for 1898. "Works of the Imagination," "England Revisited," "Henry Drummond," "Magic: Ancient and Modern," and "A Study in Municipal Government."

The officers are: president, Mrs. A. J. Peavey; vice-president, Mrs. E. F. Hallack; recording secretary, Mrs. J. W. Graham; corresponding secretary, Mrs. T. M. Pattison; treasurer, Mrs. B. T. Vincent.

"Progress the law of being." **The Monday Literary Club** was first known as the Pleasant Hour. For two years the little group of women met without organization, but on November 14, 1881, a constitution and by-laws were adopted and weekly meetings from October till May provided for. The membership was restricted to twelve.

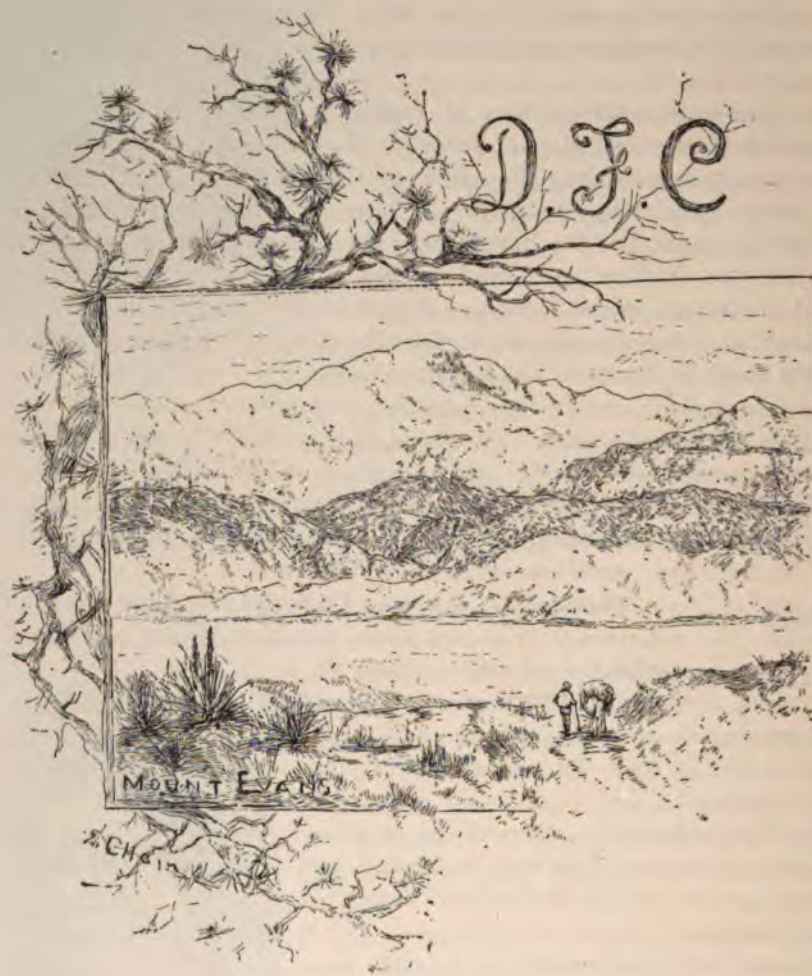
The first course of study was drawn from ecclesiastical history. This was succeeded by the broader field of the intellectual development of Europe.

The need of reference books led to the laying the foundations of a library; and at the last meetings of the year 1881-82, it was decided to add foreign topics of more general interest to the serious historical work.

The new departure was introduced by the president in a valuable paper upon the "Origin of Nations." To the broad culture of Mrs. Erminia Ferris the club owes much of the com-



MRS. ERMINIA FERRIS,
First President of Monday Literary Club,
of Denver, Colo.



MOUNT EVANS,
EMBLEM OF FORTNIGHTLY CLUB, DENVER

prehensive and thorough character of its work in connection with the studies of the seven ancient monarchies, their religion, literature, arts, industries, and architecture.

This broadening of work was a broadening of mental life to every one engaged in it. The studies occupied the years to 1885, when a course was arranged beginning with Italy and covering continental Europe.

The winter of 1888 proved most interesting and profitable. Miscellaneous topics were introduced, and the lively discussions brought the realization that the art of the ready speaker is as profitable as that of the ready writer.

The study of Germany included the history of the Reformation, the Thirty Years' War, the Niebelungen Lied, philosophy, art, cathedrals, and free cities. Especial attention was given to music, literature, and drama, and many books of interest were added to the library.

In 1889 the name was changed to the Monday Literary Club, as being more exact, and suggestive of the work and the purpose.

Russia, Scandinavia, Holland, and Hungary were all studied in the systematic way that had proved so profitable in previous years; bringing the club, in 1890, to the study of England, to which four years were given, including the history from the Roman invasion down to Queen Victoria, and taking in the causes and growth of the American idea, the advancement of woman, the rise of Quakerism, the literature of Chaucer and Shakespeare to the Brownings, the progress of art, and the development of spiritual thought.

A new departure marked the season of 1894. Instead of systematized outline of study, miscellaneous programmes, suggested in part by the members, and treating of American, ethical, scientific, literary, or current topics, were arranged.

The Monday Literary Club has reason to be gratified, not only with the high character of its studies pursued steadfastly through the years, but also with the advantage gained in following out the design for mental growth, for ideals partly realized, for clearer conceptions of life, its continuity and possibilities, and for the long memories of delightful intercourse.

A feature of the later years has been the introduction of "toast" luncheons, which proved of value to the members in developing ease in impromptu speaking and reporting current events without notes.



MRS. GEORGE T. SUMNER,
President Monday Literary Club,
Denver, Colo.

With the changes that have been inevitable, the loving purpose of the founder of the club, Mrs. Erminia Ferris, has been gratefully recognized, and it is pleasant to look forward, under the leadership of Mrs. G. T. Sumner, to the wealth of intellectual gain which the future holds still in reserve for those who seek it.

The Friday Morning Club, Denver, began as a study club pure and simple, in 1889. Its work was not, however, confined to one field, but was projected upon the broader lines of history, art, and literature. Making history the basis, it has enjoyed the best that the varied subjects afford in Italy, France, Belgium, Holland, and England. Later, it took up the history and civilization of Greece, adding to this, discussions upon current events and papers upon modern art and literary subjects.

The Northside Woman's Club, of Denver, was formed in a suburb of the city in 1895, by Mrs. H. G. Wolfe. This club blends its social and literary "*Progress and Charity*," features very attractively, and has been a success from the start. It was planned upon the same lines as the Woman's Club, with four departments: Home and Education, Reform and Philanthropy, Art and Music, Literature and Science.

The first year of its life was marked by three brilliant functions, which included lectures by distinguished persons, followed by receptions, to which club women throughout the city were invited.

The subjects taken up have been largely of current interest, followed by free discussion. This method has been an important factor in the rapid growth of the membership and its development in the art of public speaking.

The election of the president, Mrs. J. M. Conine, to the Legislature (member for the Eleventh District) was a natural source of pride and pleasure to the club, and her record has deepened this sentiment.

The membership, during two years of life, has become two hundred and fifty, and the club spirit is strengthened by the fellowship cultivated with other clubs.

The Northside has organized one auxiliary, the Sunnyside Extension, and has begun to take part in municipal improvements.

The Committee on Social Entertainment projected one of the largest and most interesting of its gatherings, an invitation meeting of all the federated clubs of the city.



MRS. H. G. WOLFE,
Founder Northside Woman's Club,
Denver, Colo.

The club flower is the carnation. The motto, "Progress and Charity." The colors, faun and dark green, typifying the tints of mountain and plain.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. J. M. Conine; vice-president, Mrs. T. R. Murphy; recording secretary, Mrs. Mary J. Custer; treasurer, Mrs. I. F. Helmuch; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. A. Rose.

The Clio Club was organized in 1892, by Mrs. Electa Hamilton, who was chosen as its first president. Mrs. Hamilton served only a few months, and was succeeded by the present able and zealous presiding officer, Mrs. W. P. G. Hayward, who has been the unanimous choice every year since its organization. To Mrs. Hayward and the Clio is credited the beginning of club extension in Denver. From a little group of fifteen the club has grown to a membership of upwards of two hundred, with several auxiliaries. The important ones are the Young Ladies' Clio, with a membership of sixty-five; the Clio Annex, with a membership of thirty; the Junior Clio, with a membership of thirty; and the Monday Evening Clio, with a membership of sixty. The literary programme of the Clio sent to the biennial exhibit at Louisville attracted wide attention from the breadth and unity of its subjects.

The literary topics for 1897 were drawn from sixteenth century events and personages, and treated in a scholarly manner.

A standing committee of three members represents the Clio at all meetings of its auxiliaries, and assists when called upon.

Men are admitted to partial participation in the work of the Clio, the first club in Denver to establish this innovation.

The Round Table, of Denver, was composed originally of twelve ladies, invited by Mrs. Alice Polk Hill to join her in the study of history and the literary topics that might grow out of it.

The organization was accomplished on an



MRS. J. M. CONINE,
President Northside Woman's Club, Denver,
Colo., and Member of Legislature for Eleventh
District



MRS. W. P. G. HAYWARD,
President Clio Club, of Denver, Colo

October afternoon in 1888, around a table in Mrs. Hill's library, and has continued unbroken, only enlarging its membership to twenty-five, since that time.

"Step by step we gain the heights." Mrs. Hill was chosen the president, and has been re-elected every year, her magnetism and enthusiasm in the work inspiring the members, and making the club, as a whole, an intellectual power throughout the State.

"Step by step we gain the heights" became the motto of every member, and together they marched successively through English, French, Greek, and American history, and then spent two delightful years on the plays of Shakespeare, following these with the study of the Elizabethan period, during the season of 1896-97.



MRS. ALICE POLK HILL,
President Round Table Club, Denver,
Colo.

The Round Table is especially rich in women distinguished in special lines—the singer, the poet, the sculptor, the linguist, the editor, the writer, the painter, and the traveller; which shows that unity may exist with diversity in taste and pursuit. The Round Table loves play as well as work, and mingles the two in its social gatherings, closing the year with an entertainment that takes its tone from the work of the previous months. The Rocky Mountain columbine is its flower, and pale lavender its color.

The Tuesday Musical Club, of Denver, was founded in 1891, with twelve charter members. Miss Isabel Hill was elected president, and Mrs. H. G. Reynolds treasurer. They have remained in these positions through the years of the club's life. The limit of membership was put at seventy-five, and this it has reached. The objects were to develop musical talent and stimulate musical interest in Denver.

The club has a "programme afternoon" every fortnight, and the chorus of about fifty ladies practise every week. This was at first conducted by Mrs. George G. Baker, a most inspiring leader and devoted worker, who has since died, and been succeeded by Miss H. L. Sims.

The Tuesday Club was at first called the Amateur Musical Club, but was strengthened so much by professional musicians becoming members that this name misrepresented it, and was therefore changed. The club has associate members not students, and it is only these that are permitted to attend the membership concerts, which are often distinguished also by the presence of great artists. Mr. and Mrs. George Henschel performed at the first concert





REVIEWERS' CLUB, DENVER

Mrs. CLAY B. STEELE, Founder

Mrs. M. J. STAIR, Representative Member

Mrs. CHARLES H. MORRIS, President

in November, 1896, and Plunket Greene and Madame Carreño, have also appeared upon the programmes.

The club meets in the assembly room of an armory, where the Woman's Club formerly met. The chorus is seated on the platform, the members all attired in white with pale yellow ribbons or flowers, white and yellow being the club colors. It is found also that the effect is much better than where a medley of colors is worn.

The Tuesday Club is incorporated and is a member of the State and General Federations.

Its emblem is a small pin of gold and white enamel.

Three afternoon programmes and three evening concerts are given to

associate members for the nominal sum of five dollars for two tickets for the courses.

The study has been Scandinavian music, German composers, followed by Polish and French composers, under experts.

The Reviewers' Club, of Denver, was founded November 15, 1892, by Mrs. C. B. Steele, a member of the Woman's Club of Denver, and an actual worker in its Art and Literature department. The first president was Mrs. C. H. Morris, well known in Denver club circles, an organizer of the "Round Table" and students' clubs, and a prominent member of the Woman's Club. Her scholarly attainments particularly fit her for the position of leader, which she still continues to hold.

The Reviewers have for their motto: "Agitation of thought is the beginning of wisdom." Carnation is the class flower and color. It is a club comprising about twenty-five zealous and systematic students, who during the past five years have studied mythology, Greek history, the Iliad, gave two years to the prose writers of the nineteenth century, and one year to American writers and sociologic questions. The plan of work for the coming winter is Dante and Mediæval History.

An active member of the Reviewers is Mrs. M. J. Stair, who is also well known in art circles. Mrs. Stair is a sculptor of some note. Her "Left



REVIEWERS' CLUB ROOM, DENVER, COLORADO

of Paradise," sculptured heads of two children, occupied a prominent place in the National Gallery of Fine Arts at the World's Fair. The Reviewers is a "specialized" club, but within its limits has a reputation for excellent work.

Its studies of Dante and the Middle Ages have been most inspiring.

The Sphinx Club, of Denver, consists of twenty-five young women, married and unmarried. It started in 1892 with seven members, under the kindly auspices of Mrs. T. H. Moore.

The first two years of study were devoted to ancient sculpture. At the beginning of the third year a "Tour of the World" was decided upon, and the work has been growing in interest.

The club has visited England, Scotland, Wales, Spain, Portugal, and France, lingering in places made historic by events or interesting by the lives of personages. 1897-98 is given to Italy, Switzerland, and Germany. The club meets every two weeks, and half an hour is given to current topics. Discussion is encouraged of the topic of the day, but without notes or papers.

The Civic Club, of Denver.—The object of the formation of this organization is stated to be "to form a centre of organization, education, and administration, through which all the forces making for the strengthening and up-building of the higher life in the city of Denver shall be united, concentrated, energized, developed, and directed in the spirit of practical Christianity, to the inculcation of large and true civic ideals and their concrete embodiment in the everyday life of the city and its citizens."

The association was formed August 17, 1896, and the following basis of principles announced:

"From every one according to ability; to every one according to need," is adopted as our motto, with earnest intention to establish that rule as the working principle of our social order.

We recognize in the city the latest and fullest development of that *organized living* through which alone the Brotherhood of Man may be actually realized and made manifest; the basis, in this our day, of civilized life, and so of individual, family, and national growth.

We believe, therefore, that the present widespread movement in favor of municipal reform is not only humanitarian, but also religious in the largest sense of the word, and that it should have the hearty coöperation of men of all religions, and especially of all followers of Christ, under whatever denominational banner it may please them to gather for worship otherwise.

In this faith, we consecrate our lives to the service of God in humanity, and associate ourselves together in the spirit of love, freedom, and fellowship,

for the purpose of promoting by united, intelligent, and organized action the more perfect embodiment of the religion of truth, justice, and love in the civic life of Denver.

Membership in this organization is both resident and non-resident. Non-resident members are accepted upon signing the Declaration of Principles. No fees, dues, or service are required from such associate members. They are entitled to receive the publications of the Civic Church, and to all the privileges of its meetings when visiting Denver.

The government is vested in the Central Council, and there are committees upon Relief and Reform, Press and Publication, Municipal Art, Municipal Parks and Highways, Municipal Service and Supplies, Lands and Buildings, Household Economics, Sanitation and Hygiene, Education and Entertainment, Legislation, Employment.

The Executive Committee consists of Mrs. Lucien Scott, chairman; Mrs. W. F. Kipley, vice-chairman; Mrs. L. V. Baker; Miss E. M. Hammond, treasurer; Mrs. A. M. Bryant, Mrs. C. V. Kram, Miss M. Murray, Mrs. Louise Tyler.

The programme of the opening meeting was memorable. "The Civic Spirit," "Organization of the City," "The City and the Worker," "The City's Health," "City and State; their Mutual Relations," "The City Mother," were some of the topics. The mayor presided; men and women participated. "It seemed like the beginning of the New Jerusalem," said one who was there.

The Industrial Club, of Denver, is business-like and progressive. Its motive is the distribution of information in regard to the State of Colorado, and obtaining and diffusing knowledge in regard to its beauty and resources. The cultivation of State pride is aided by public meetings and newspaper articles; so that neither citizens nor strangers may be ignorant of the wealth of scenery or the health-giving quality of the air of Colorado.

A club was formed in November, 1897, in the interest of dress reform. It has a membership of thirty, and is officered as follows: President, Mrs. J. L. Brown; secretary, Mrs. E. H. Morrison; treasurer, Mrs. D. F. Abels. The object is to devise a graceful, artistic, comfortable, healthful gown, which can be worn in the house and on the street without attracting attention, and which will enable the wearer to eliminate the corset if she so desires.

The Anne Hathaway Club, of Colorado Springs, was founded in February, 1895, by four ladies, who each invited four others to join them in the study of the less known of Shakespeare's plays. An informal organization was effected, with Mrs. Julia Platt, the originator, as president.

In June, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the club joined the State Federation, which met in Colorado Springs that year. In the autumn the club began the study of the English chronicle plays, following

these with some of the comedies. Each member has a part assigned her, and some special as well as general reading to do for its better understanding.

The club has, however, been regarded more as recreative than for serious study. Extra meetings are held to which members bring friends, and these are looked upon in the light of entertainments, to which an invitation is coveted.

An entertainment under the auspices of the Anne Hathaway netted about \$200 for the Pierson's Fund of Colorado College. It has placed Bartlett's "Concordance of Shakespeare" in the college library, and also a large photograph of the "rubbing" of the inscription from Shakespeare's tomb, obtained by a member of the club who was in Stratford during the summer of 1897.

The reading of historical novels relating to the period of the play studied is encouraged.

The founders, who were the first officers, are: President, Mrs. Julia A. Platt, who has been yearly reelected; vice-president, Mrs. Riddle; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Hemmenway. Mrs. Eldridge, who has always declined office, has been one of the most valuable and active workers. A very beautiful luncheon was given by one of the founders to the club, April 23, 1897. The menu was in quotations from Shakespeare, and the invitations in early English. An original poem was the feature of the occasion.

The majority of the eighteen charter members are still active.

The Cliolian Club, of Montrose.—In the autumn of 1895, a Methodist minister in this little town, who had some time to give to those who were "not of his fold," gathered a class for the study of history. This class consisted of about twenty members, ladies and gentlemen, who met once a week at the parsonage.

So infectious was the enthusiasm of the teacher that before the winter was over the ladies decided to have a class or club of their own and take up the study of literature as well as history.

A meeting was called, officers chosen, a committee of three selected to make out a programme, and the women entered on a delightful year's study of Grecian and Roman history. The next year, with becoming patriotism, the members decided to take up American literature and history. They are still studying these subjects with interest and profit.



MRS. JULIA A. PLATT,
President Anne Hathaway Club, Colo.

The club, born of that prolific mother, aspiration, nursed by the eager desire for knowledge of sixteen earnest women, has attained no marvellous proportions in its three years of life, but it has broadened the intellect, deepened the sympathies, and raised the ideals of its loyal, loving members.

The Fortnightly, of Boulder, owes its origin, in 1884, to the active effort of Miss Mary Rippon, one of the faculty of the State University, which is situated in Boulder. Miss Rippon was aided in the work of forming a literary club by some of the wives of the professors in the university, and ladies resident in the town, of literary tastes.

The meetings at first were quite informal. The regular ones in private parlors, the more social functions in hotel drawing-rooms. In 1888 a lodge room was rented, shared by other organizations, but in 1889 rooms were

taken and furnished that have made a pleasant and permanent club home.

The membership is limited to thirty-five, new members only being elected as vacancies occur. In 1891 a more formal organization was effected, a constitution was adopted, and the club joined the General Federation. It sent delegates to Chicago, and also to Philadelphia, and in 1894 became



CLUB ROOM OF FORTNIGHTLY CLUB, OF BOULDER, COL.

a charter member of the Colorado State Federation. The work has covered history and literature, science and art, and always more or less of the topics of the times.

The subjects for study this year are drawn from Motley's "Dutch Republic" and Shakespeare. The Fortnightly has enjoyed fourteen years of steadily studious life, and its reputation gives it free access, for reference purposes, to the State University library, which consists of ten thousand selected volumes. Officers are elected annually, no one being eligible two years in succession. The general officers, with the literary committees, form the Executive Board and control the affairs of the club.

One of the most attractive features of the Fortnightly consists of the social events, to which a limited public is always invited.

Many fine parlor lectures, musicals, and other entertainments have been given under its auspices, and invitations to these are eagerly sought. To be voted into the club is considered a great honor by all applicants, and the yearly dues of five dollars, and three dollars for entrance fee, are willingly paid. The season's work begins the first of October and ends with the close of May.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. A. E. Bowin; first vice-president, Mrs. M. A. Albee; second vice-president, Mrs. S. S. Downer; secretary, Mrs. O. G. Otis; treasurer, Mrs. O. H. Wangelin. Miss Mary Rippon and Mrs. Henry Rosenkrans form the Committee on History; Mrs. Carl Belser, Miss Mary Gamble, and Mrs. A. E. Chase, the Committee on Shakespeare, while Mrs. J. A. Davis and Mrs. I. L. Bond have charge of social matters.

The Friends in Council, of Cañon City, was organized in 1888, as the result of the urgent appeals of Mrs. F. P. Blake, now deceased, to Mrs. M. M. Sheetz, to start such an organization. Mrs. Blake felt strongly the need of the inspiration which women's literary clubs had given to others, and together the two women talked over plans, smoothed away difficulties, and at a called meeting held at the home of Mrs. Sheetz presented the idea of Friends in Council for approval. It was accepted, and the interest of the ladies present very much excited. An immediate organization was effected, with Mrs. Sheetz as presiding officer, and the study of the Constitution of the United States, with character sketches of the famous statesmen and personages of the period, decided upon for the first year. The two years following were devoted to history, with Motley's "Dutch Republic" for text book. The studies thereafter were drawn from, 1890-91, Motley's "United Netherlands"; 1891-92, Guizot's "History of France"; 1893-94, Green's "History of the English People"; 1894-95, Montgomery's "American History"; 1895-96, Prescott's "Conquest of Mexico"; 1896-97, Rambaud's "History of Russia."

The work is done under four standing committees—History, Art and Literature, Current Topics, and Social Science. Each committee chooses its own chairman, and is responsible for the programmes of the meetings for two months of each club year. Prescott, the historian, was so thoroughly enjoyed that a tree was planted and named after him.

The membership is limited to twenty-five bright, thoughtful, and progressive women. The meetings are held at the homes of members, and each one strives to fulfil the object of the association: "The union of congenial minds for study and discussion."



GROUP OF OFFICERS OF FRIENDS IN COUNCIL, CAÑON CITY, COLO.

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| 1. MRS. M. M. SHEETZ, First President, Treasurer State Federation | 3. MRS. CARRIE P. DAWSON, Second President |
| 2. MRS. CATHERINE B. TWITCHELL, President | 5. MRS. MINNIE L. HARDING, Rep. Member |
| 4. WILHELMINA B. BLAKE, a Founder | |

Some attention is paid to parliamentary practice, and business is conducted strictly in accordance with its usage.

Rotation in office is annual, and the yearly fee two dollars.

Any member may invite a friend to a club meeting by obtaining permission from the president and the essayist for the evening. The president is Mrs. Katherine B. Twitchell; secretary, Mrs. Cora MacFarland.

The Friends in Council is a member of the State and General Federations, and its motto is: "In essentials, unity: in non-essentials, liberty: in all things, charity."

The latest work, 1897-98, is a study of Greece, its history, geography, mythology, early and later wars, and includes the origin of the drama, the great leaders of the schools of philosophy, and its schools of art.

Its outline of work is well worthy the line from Horace which precedes it: "What I am about to disclose is worthy your attention."

The Norton Art Club was founded by ten women, who met at the home of Mrs. T. A. Lewis, in Pueblo, Colo., November 8, 1892, and pledged themselves to a study of the history of art under the name of the Norton Art Club, so called after Charles Eliot Norton, Professor of the Fine Arts in Harvard College, Cambridge, Mass. In this "Pittsburg of the West," this "sun-kissed town," surrounded by mountains, this little company has been found regularly each year from October to May, at 2.30 P.M., on Mondays, in the parlors of their president, Mrs. T. A. Lewis, for study and conversation. In this work the historic method of study has been strictly adhered to. Reber's outline as to the historical evolution of ancient and mediæval art has been the guide, and attention has been given to contemporary history, both civic and ecclesiastical, as embodied in the architecture, sculpture, and painting of the nation or school studied. Three years were given to this work, followed by the history of painting, using the outline of Woltman and Woeverman as to its development. This has brought the club to the present season, 1897-98, and to the study of the golden period of painting in Italy.

In the third year of its work the Norton Art Club digressed once a month from its usual routine, and presented papers at an open meeting, to which each member was allowed to bring a guest. No better index to the club and its work can be given than the trend of thought in these papers. "Art as Agent of Civilization" emphasized that the beautiful tends to purity and morality; "The Modern French School of Painting" showed that the highest art is but the union of ideality and reality; "The Myths of the North" exhibited "Nature as the Alphabet of Art"; "The Modern Dutch School of Painting" traced the origin and development of genre painting and its influence on home life; "The Madonnas of the Old Masters" found in the imagery of mother and child one of the forces which dominates all life

and development. "The Ten Best Paintings of the World" were brought together in one collection, and the club was taught what to see, and how to judge of a picture. "The Ten Best Statues of the World" taught that no one can hew and chisel above and beyond his own ideal of life and character.

"The Myths of India" traced some of the nature myths of the Aryans through the progress of nations to modern art. In this way was followed the myth represented in pagan art through the pantheistic art of the Greeks to the sacred mystery of the Holy Grail in Christian art. A symposium upon "Which of the Five Fine Arts has Chiefly Promoted Civilization?" summed up the study of the years, and it was agreed that art is highest which helps us to bear the burdens and find the best in daily life and character.

The yearly dues have been devoted to the purchase of books of reference and photographs of art subjects.

The club is limited to fifteen active members, but the associate and honorary are allowed to attend both the weekly and open meetings as listeners. The daughters of active members are added to the honorary list. The fifth birthday of the club was celebrated by the issue of its first year-book, and the general verdict of result of this use of a certain portion of time is, that "in the search for beauty truth has been found; that it has supplied a golden thread in the tapestry of life, and has shown that living is the finest of the fine arts."

The Fortnightly Club, of Longmont, was organized February 17, 1894. Its membership is forty women. The object is "mutual improvement, and



MARY E. KEELER,
President of Longmont Fortnightly,
Longmont, Colo.



JESSIE STEPHENSON,
Founder of Longmont Fortnightly Club,
Longmont, Colo.

the aid derived from the union of congenial minds in studious work." The programmes have been those of the Tourist Club. The club motto is, "*Though thou hast time but for a line, be that sublime. Not failure, but low aim is crime.*" The club flower, the marguerite. Miss Isabel Paul is the secretary.

The Fortnightly Club, of La Junta.—The name of this place signifies "a meeting, where, in the old Spanish days, as to-day, roads met and diverged to the mountain passes, or the wide plains, the grandeur and the repose of which our lives seem to touch."

The motto of the club is, therefore, "Standing where plain and mountain meet, our paths lead ever toward wider views, or rugged heights. What braver outlook! What nobler inspiration!"

The "Fortnightly" was organized in March, 1897, with forty-five charter members, which soon grew to fifty-five. The primary object was intellectual advancement on different lines, but it is not a department club. The work is divided under committees upon Literature, History, Art, Ethics, Music, and Current Events. The method consists of short papers and general discussion upon given topics under the different heads. Current events embraces civics as a part of its practical work, and includes also the educational interests in connection with the public schools.

The "Fortnightly" is a member of the State and General Federations, and has an efficient board of officers. The president is Mrs. J. G. Garoin, an enthusiastic student and worker, broad in her ideas, and courageous in sustaining them.

The club colors are white and yellow. The flower, the mountain daisy.

The Progress Club, of Greeley, started with a gathering of seven women, who met by invitation, on a stormy evening in January, 1894, at the residence of Mrs. Bullard, to organize a literary club. Every woman present trembled at the sound of her own voice, and the club could not have been formed if it had not been expressly stipulated that the work should be voluntary.

Freedom from compulsion gave courage. The idea worked to a charm, for the most retiring are often the most capable, and there was not one that when the time came did not give to the task assigned her the best she could do with tongue and pen.

The membership increased, but was restricted to twenty. Latent strength developed, and the Progress Club united with both the State and General Federations.

To-day the club realizes intensely that the hope and effort of the founder have been fulfilled. The thought of what she could do for others, crystallized,



MRS. M. C. BULLARD,
Founder of Progress Club, Greeley, Colo.

through months of physical suffering, in the Progress Club, and its development of power and harmonious spirit have made of her dream a reality. The president is Mrs. Cora Mosher, and a most valued member Mrs. Elizabeth Clark.

The studies have been among the ancient races of men, their history, religion, and civilization, supplemented by modern literary topics, book reviews, and conversations upon these varying themes.

The Progressive Club, of Golden, was organized January 1, 1894, by electing Miss A. H. de France president, and Miss Lizzie Weyman secretary and treasurer. It was decided, in view of the right of suffrage that had just then been conferred upon the women of Colorado, to take

up the study of the civil government of the State, and supplement it with a parliamentary drill at each meeting. In 1895 Mrs. O. W. Garrison succeeded Mrs. de France as president, and Bryce's "*Nulla vietiigia retrossum.*" American Commonwealth" was chosen as a basis for study.

Parliamentary drill was continued, and each member was assigned a different country, whose current events it was her duty to report at roll call. This idea was very successful, bringing out sayings both wise and witty, and adding a really valuable digest of current news. So fascinating is this method of dealing with foreign topics that it has been continued up to the present time.

When the State federation was formed, the Progressive Club felt sufficiently advanced to take a place in the congregation of clubs, and later united also with the General Federation. The course was now steadily onward. A charming "social" at the home of the president, Mrs. S. M. Kesler, closed the year.

The subject for 1896 was four American poets—Lowell, Longfellow, Whittier, and Bryant—with supplementary discussions on topics of general interest.

To many of the members it has proved a very interesting and profitable year. It closed with a brilliant "at home," to which guests were invited.

In 1897, Mrs. G. W. Cruzen was elected president, Mrs. G. W. Smith secretary, and Mrs. J. W. Barnes treasurer. A comparative study of four poets—Holmes and Emerson, Byron and Tennyson—has been made, and the twenty famous battles of history studied and discussed.

"Valuable lessons have been gained," writes the historian, in the work

upon these topics. One is to "respect the opinions of others. Second, a willingness to accord to others the privileges we ask for ourselves. A third, perhaps the most valuable, that we are building character, developing latent power, establishing friendships, and cultivating the truth and 'tenderness of which,' as Emerson says, 'friendship consists.'"

Finally, "we rejoice that we are free women, and that barriers are being burned away."

The Grand Mesa Woman's Club, of Grand Junction, was organized in September, 1895.

The first year's study was English literature, beginning with the Elizabethan period. The second year, American history. This year, the interest of the club has been intense in the study of American literature.

"The temple of knowledge is within our very midst."

Wishing to increase the facilities for mental culture, not only for the club women of the city but the rising generation, the Grand Mesa, in connection with the Twentieth Century Club, is making persistent effort for the establishment of a public library. This promises to be a success.

The constant aim of the club is intellectual advancement, the cultivation of literary and artistic taste, and keeping abreast of the world of modern thought and events. The efforts are all bent towards the cultivation of higher ideals of life. Towards these ends, and realizing the help and encouragement derived from coöperation, the club joined the State Federation in the year of its formation, and the General Federation in 1897.

The motto of the club is, "The temple of knowledge is within our very midst." The active membership is twenty-five; club colors, cream and pink; flower, the carnation.

The officers are: President, Mrs. A. R. Wadsworth; vice-president, Mrs. S. G. McMullin; secretary, Mrs. C. W. Johnson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. C. Newton; counsel and critic, Mrs. Swift.

The Twentieth Century Club, of Grand Junction, has an active membership of thirty. It meets every Tuesday, from October to May. Its special work is to establish a public library, and to this its different departments lend their aid. Mrs. W. F. White is the president.

The Trinidad Ladies' Tourist Club was organized in 1890. It has a membership of sixteen, its limit, and meets weekly at the homes of its members. Its object is mutual improvement in science, art, literature, economics, philanthropy, and civics. Individual ability and talent are brought out through original papers, followed by free discussion.

"The end crowns the work."

The programme is varied by quotations in response to roll-call, current



MRS. EUGENE C. STEVENS,
President Trinidad Tourists, Colorado.

events, question box, and critic's report. Access to the Trinidad Free Public Library of nine thousand choice volumes is greatly appreciated.

The Tourist Club belongs to the State Federation and also to the General Federation.

The club colors are pink and white, and the motto, "The end crowns the work."

Much enthusiasm is manifested by its members, and, as the years go by, the work becomes more interesting and more helpful. Its president is Mrs. E. C. Stevens.

The Woman's Club, of Ouray, was antedated, as early as 1884, by a reading class that pursued a Chautauqua course and other studies in an earnest spirit, but somewhat desultory and unsystematic manner. No railroad at that time had reached the town, and the isolation through the winter was very depressing. More recently the achievements of other women in club life inspired a spirit of emulation, and on March 13, 1897, a "Knowledge is power." regularly organized club was born with a membership of twenty-five and a spirit of high enthusiasm. Within the year the young club federated both in the State and national organizations.

The special objects, as stated, are "mutual improvement and coöperation with others in establishing and sustaining a public library."

The work of the club is divided into departments under Art, Home, Literature, and Current Events. In art, Greece has furnished the studies. In the home, woman and sanitary science, home life and the like. Various countries have supplied various topics in literature; "Tesla's Discoveries," "Book Reviews," "Hawaii," and "President Diaz" have been discussed.

Departments elect their own chairmen and secretaries, and each one pays its own expenses. The annual dues are \$1, and a \$2 fine is imposed upon any member who fails to present an important paper (or a substitute) to which she has been assigned.

The meetings are fortnightly, from the first Saturday in September until the third Saturday in May. An annual printed programme is provided for by the by-laws, and the first one issued is a model of good taste and business-like classification.

The president is Mrs. F. A. Kimball; vice-president, Mrs. M. N. Munn; secretaries, Clara A. Causon, Mary J. Griffin; treasurer, Minnie A. Brown. Seven members, with the officers, constitute a board of directors.

W. T. K. Club, of Greeley.—To Mrs. Eliza F. McClellan belongs the honor of calling together, in her own home, the group of women who, on January 1, 1890, laid the foundations of the W. T. K. Club. *"New occasions teach new duties."* The motive was to gratify "a longing for higher social and intellectual development," and Mrs. McClellan's broader view stimulated courage to lay foundations beyond the limits of a reading class, and organize upon a literary club basis.

The mystical initials which formed the name were derived from a common exclamation—"I want to know"—abbreviated. Mrs. S. B. Wallace was the first president, and Mrs. Mary A. Inman the first secretary.

The first meetings were held in the parlors of club members; but the first meeting of its fourth year celebrated the taking possession of club rooms in the Odd Fellows' building of the city, where W. T. K. has met ever since. It joined the General Federation in 1893, and the State Federation in 1895, and lives up to both.

The present presiding officer is Mrs. E. M. Fezer, an able woman, untiring in her efforts to advance the interests of the club. Mrs. Agnes S. Nusbaum is secretary and treasurer.

A Department of Village Improvement and Civics has been formed during the past two years, in addition to the literary work. The club colors are pink and white.

The Wednesday Musical Club, of Cañon City, began its life in November, 1894, as the Composers' Club. The name, proving a misnomer, was changed, as the object was not that of a manuscript society, but the study of composers and their works. The weekly sessions are occupied with the business of the club, parliamentary drill, and the study of musical history, illustrated by several musical numbers. Evening entertainments are given several times during the year, for the purpose of hospitality, and maintaining and developing appreciation of classical and the best popular music.

Musicales in aid of philanthropic work have also been given, and several volumes of musical literature donated to the public library. The club is now a thoroughly organized one, and, in its connection with both State and General Federations, recognizes new responsibilities along the line of a broader education for women.

The club flower is the pink carnation, and



MISS H. E. BRIGGS,
President Wednesday Musical Club,
Cañon City, Colo.



W. T. K. CLUB, GREELEY, COLO.

MRS. ELIZA F. MCCLELLAN, Founder
MRS. ELLA M. FEZER, President

MRS. S. B. WALLACE, First President
MRS. MARY A. INMAN, First Secretary

the club colors pink and green. The motto is from Luther: "Music is a discipline, a mistress of order and good manners; she makes the people milder, gentler, more moral, and more reasonable."

The founder and president is Miss Helen E. Briggs; the vice-president, Miss Leila Brown; recording secretary, Mrs. J. Maupin; treasurer, Mrs. A. B. Stewart; corresponding secretary, Miss Grace W. Dale. The membership of the club is thirty, which is its limit. It joined the General Federation, and also the Colorado State Federation, 1897.

The Shakespeare Club, of Idaho Springs, is a recent addition to the State Federation. Its purpose is not strictly Shakespearean, but studies from Shakespeare form the basis of its literary work, the object of which is well expressed by its motto, "Knowledge is the wing with which we fly to heaven."

Its subjects for papers and discussions have been drawn from Macaulay, Hawthorne, Tennyson, and other modern authors, quite as much as Shakespeare, and the papers upon literary topics are varied by discussions of current events at four meetings of the club year.

The founder and first president was Mrs. Bullis. The presiding officer (1897) is Miss Mary J. Bowen. The membership is twenty young women. The club flowers are the red and white rose; the colors, red and white.



MISS MARY J. BOWEN,
President Shakespeare Club, Idaho
Springs, Colo.

The Home Reading Club, of Leadville, started in 1889 to read classical works, and discuss by conversation interesting current topics. It continued the informal meetings until January, 1892, when, through the effort of Mrs. Sarah F. Almy, a club organization was effected, with Mrs. Raymond Whinnerah as the first president.

It was the first literary club formed in the town of Leadville, and is for the serious study of the best English and American literature. A great deal of excellent work has been done by the membership, in the form of original essays and critical discussion.

The club has found that moral and social culture, with all of their humanizing influences, are contained in this study of best literature, and has not gone outside of it, except to work for the establishment of a public library, in which it has been successful. It has realized a great privilege in belonging



MRS. R. WHINNERAH,
First President Home Reading Club
Leadville, Colo.

nerah. The continued life of such a club in a town like Leadville is an object lesson of the highest value. The insignia is the General Federation pin, with silver aster pendant. The flower is the mountain aster, and the colors purple and yellow. The present corresponding secretary, Mrs. S. E. Dimick, was the president in 1894-95, and the club owes to her progressive spirit the impulse to join the General Federation and become part of the great moving spirit which actuates the club life of women.

The Woman's Club, of Cripple Creek, formed its temporary organization, August, 1896, with thirteen members. The permanent organization was effected October 24, 1896, when Mrs. Sarah S. Platt and Mrs. Susan R. Ashley, of Denver, were present and assisted in the work. Thirty-five ladies became charter members at this meeting, and by the time the calendar was printed, at the beginning of the year 1897, the number had increased to one hundred and thirty-one. Others joined during the year, raising the membership to one hundred and fifty. The originator was Mrs. Thomas Withers, who was elected the first president. The club color is yellow, a golden yellow, as Cripple Creek grew out of a

to the General and State Federations, bringing it in touch with other clubs, and finding that "learning" does "reach over to touch eternity." The study of Shakespeare has occupied the present year, and brought great enjoyment. In connection with the plays, a great deal of early history and study of places and personages has been done, with ever-increasing interest and delight.

"Think ye see
The very persons of our noble story,
As they were living,"

has been truly the case with the Home Reading Club in its "year with Shakespeare."

A great inspiration has been derived from the present presiding officer, Mrs. Mary Louise Stickley, and the first president, now the chairman of the Programme Committee, Mrs. Whinnerah.



MRS. M. L. STICKLEY,
President Home Reading Club,
Leadville, Colo.

gold-mining camp. It is already divided into several departments, Educational, Home, Musical, Art and Literature, and Philanthropy. The musical department, of which Mrs. C. J. Moore is chairman and also the musical director, has given several fine concerts. It has a well-trained chorus, equal to any other amateur chorus of the same size in America. The department of philanthropy has formed the nucleus of a public library. It is small in its beginning, but good; and will be permanent. Miss Adelaide Butterfield is president of the Library Association, which acts independently, though the outgrowth of and in connection with the club. The home department has



REPRESENTATIVE MEMBERS, WOMAN'S CLUB OF CRIPPLE CREEK

MRS. CHARLES J. MOORE

MRS. THOMAS WITHERS,
Founder

MISS ADELAIDE BUTTERFIELD,
President Free Library

planned to form a newsboys' club with military drill and night school, but this work will take time to develop.

The educational department is composed largely of teachers and women members of the school board. It is conducted by Miss Sarah Robbinette, one of the school principals of the town. At the instigation of Miss Patton, the State Superintendent of Public Instruction, a kindergarten was undertaken, and maintained successfully during the summer at a nominal rate of tuition. The art and literature department have studied early American writers, and discussed many interesting original papers. A delightful programme was carried out one day by the brilliant young artist, Charles Partridge Adams, of Denver. His address was illustrated by a number of beautiful pictures which he displayed and described. It was the first art exhibition that Cripple Creek had ever enjoyed. Where there are no theatres,



MRS. M. E. BRIGGS,
President Woman's Club, Victor, Colo.

no lectures, and but little social life, a club like the Woman's Club is an infinite blessing. The latest year book gives as officers (1898): President, Mary A. Prentiss; vice-presidents, Edith C. Malins and Thera H. Satterlee; recording secretary, Adelaide Butterfield; corresponding secretary, Mary A. Wilson; treasurer, Reba W. Booth. The year book is a model of typography and admirable classification. The Monday Literary Club of Denver visited the Woman's Club of Cripple Creek in June, and was royally entertained. The pleasure was great and mutual.

The founder of the Woman's Club of Cripple Creek, Mrs. J. B. Withers, is a member of the Monday Club of Denver, and a charter member of the famous Woman's Club of that city. She is a woman of recognized ability, and her experience and enthusiasm in club work were

of the greatest value in founding the Woman's Club.

The by-laws provide that each department make its own rules, subject to the constitution of the club and Board of Direction. The dues are one dollar, paid semi-annually, and department meetings take place monthly, the club forming, in a way, the clearing house of the departments.

The vice-president is Emma Conkling Lee, and the corresponding secretary, Eleanor K. Brace.

The Woman's Club of Victor.—"And is there really a woman's club in Victor!?"

This was the query which assailed the delegates to the State federation, in Pueblo, from that portion of the Cripple Creek district which calls itself the "greatest gold camp on earth."

The tone was that of such wondering incredulity as to be anything but flattering to residential pride. But reassurance followed the report of fifty eager, enthusiastic women whose watchword was, and is, "Keep our club up to the standard of excellence attained by the best;" and who certainly seemed to deserve some credit for creating a centre of refinement and higher civilization in the midst of their discouraging environment.

Ten thousand feet above the sea-level, Victor has reared its homes,

*"To be good is
our inclination;
to be wise is our
equally legitimate
vocation."*

schools, and churches in the midst of the rocky fastnesses that always stand like giants guarding the earth's treasures. "Strike it rich" was the motto of the miners. "To be good is our inclination; to be wise is our equally legitimate vocation," is the motto of the women and the Woman's Club.

It was through the instrumentality of Mrs. Sarah Platt, president of the Woman's Club of Denver, and Mrs. Ashley, chairman of State correspondence, that the Woman's Club of Victor was brought into existence; and they are considered its foster-mothers. Mrs. Martha Strickland also rendered valuable service.

The work was divided into four departments, Literature and Science, Music and Art, Home and Education, Philanthropy and Reform. Each of these sections has made fairly good progress, though hampered by a lack of the facilities in books and libraries which are so great an aid to the work of women's clubs.

The department of philanthropy has started a relief fund, which is placed at the disposal of a committee appointed to attend to sick and needy persons, who are plentiful even in a "rich mining camp."

The club is fortunate in the possession of a president, Mrs. M. E. Briggs, who is not only rarely capable, but rarely lovable as well. Indeed, the entire corps of officers has proved most efficient. The club's finances are in good condition, and the organization is beginning to be looked upon with respect by the men, for it is acquiring property in a small way. It does not feel now "out of the world," for it has joined the State federation, and also become a part of the great general movement. The annual dues are two dollars. A year book is printed which contains outlines of departmental subjects that compare favorably with more experienced clubs.

The Monday Club, of Victor, was founded September 16, 1895, by four ladies, Mrs. Mellen, Mrs. J. W. Collins, Mrs. E. Ford, and Mrs. J. F. Mitchell.

The object was literary work by reading and discussion of current events.

Mrs. Mitchell was made the president, and Miss Josephine B. May the secretary.

The membership was limited to fifteen.

The club motto is "Fin de Siècle," the colors green and white, and the flower the carnation.

The purpose of the club is not so much the study of ancient history as to keep in touch



MRS. J. F. MITCHELL,
President Monday Club, Victor, Colo.



HOME OF MRS. STOIBER, SILVERTON, COLO.



SILVER LAKE MINING CAMP, SILVERTON, COLO.

with current literature, and exchange ideas upon it and public questions from the larger points of view.

The Woman's Club, of Silverton, was organized May 1, 1897. The founder was Mrs. Lena Allen Stoiber, who was also elected the first president.

Silverton is a small mining town in the mountains, and the population is limited.

The membership of the Woman's Club is not large, but the women are "*Resolved to win.*" very bright, energetic, and intelligent, many of them from Eastern or Western towns, representing the best in education and general culture.

The president, Mrs. Stoiber, is a sister of Esther Allen Jobes, formerly State chairman of correspondence for Washington, now a member of the Board of Directors in the General Federation. Mrs. Stoiber is herself a practical mining engineer, an active partner of her husband in the Silver Lake Mining Company, and one of the only two honorary women members of the Brotherhood of Mining Engineers of America.

The club has adopted for its motto, "*Resolved to win,*" and for its insignia, a monogram, W. C. S., in silver and enamel. The club flower is the columbine, and the club color lavender.

It is doing practical and also historical literary work.

In addition to its departments in history and literature, it has added social science and current topics.

The vice-president is Mrs. B. A. Taftt; the secretary, Mrs. E. Reasley, and the treasurer, Mrs. Hortswaalter.

Mrs. Stoiber is a member of the Entertainment Committee of the Denver Local Board for the biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. She has travelled extensively and is famous for a wide and generous hospitality. One of the features of the Denver biennial will be a trip to Silverton of a party of club women by invitation of Mrs. Stoiber, in her private car. Silverton is five hundred miles from Denver, in a rich silver-mining district, and a fine opportunity will be afforded of seeing how "*16 to 1*" grew.



MRS. LENA ALLEN STOIBER,
President Woman's Club, Silverton, Colo.

Connecticut Clubs

The Connecticut State Federation was organized April, 1897. The English Literary Club, of Bridgeport, took the initiative, prepared an outline of constitution, made the business arrangements for the reception of delegates, and outlined the programme for the day of organization; but the Mosaic, Author's, Ceramic Art, Thursday Morning Club, and Wednesday Morning Art Class assisted in receiving and entertaining the guests who were brought together.

In addition to the circular letter sent, notices were placed in thirty-eight papers of the State, and about one hundred and fifty delegates were present. The meeting was called to order at 10:30 A.M. on April 20th, and an address of welcome made by Mrs. Rebecca Sterling, president of the English Literary Club, of Bridgeport; the response by Mrs. J. A. Picket, president of the Woman's Club, of New Britain. An address was made by Mrs. M. S. Hopson, chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the "call" for the federation was read by Mrs. R. R. Pyle, chairman of the Committee on Organization.

The minutes of preliminary meetings and report of the Invitation Committee were read by Mrs. Jennie Hawley, chairman of the Organization Committee.

The roll call of delegates was followed by the discussion of the constitution, its adoption as amended, and the registration of clubs as charter members. Thirty-four clubs were entered, which increased to nearly fifty within the first year.

The afternoon session, beginning at 2 P.M., was occupied by the election of officers, an address by Miss D. S. Pineo, of Norwalk, and three-minute reports from clubs. The music was by a double quartette from the Musical Art Club, of Bridgeport.

The meeting was very enthusiastic and gave the requisite stimulus to many literary classes and reading clubs to perfect their organization and become eligible to affiliation with the State body. The secretary's report showed many small clubs scattered over wide stretches of country. Only nine clubs in the State had more than fifty members. This fact wisely set-

tled many points of business policy and method. It was decided to make the meetings as frequent as possible, the programmes brief and requiring little outlay. The Federation proposed also that its expenses be borne by itself and its membership, without subjecting in the future any one club, or group of clubs, to the cost of entertaining. This makes it possible for the Federation to meet in smaller places, and thus bring the country clubs in direct contact with larger organizations.

The election resulted in the choice of president, Mrs. T. K. Noble, Central Club, Norwalk; vice-president, Mrs. H. H. Pyle, English Literary Club, Bridgeport; recording secretary, Mrs. George Clary, New Britain; corresponding secretary, Miss Dotha Stone Pinneo, Woman's Club, Norwalk; treasurer, Mrs. W. W. King, Woman's Club, Willimantic; auditor, Mrs. H. Marie Baker, Woman's Club, Seymour; directors, Mrs. Terry, Woman's Club, Waterbury, and Mrs. B. F. Walker, Author's Club, Bridgeport.

Four other directors have to be appointed to fill vacancies, and these, together with the State chairman of correspondence and the presidents of affiliated clubs, form the council.

A general meeting of the Board of Directors occurred on December 8, 1897. At this meeting the names of Mrs. M. C. Stanley, Woman's Club, New Britain, and of Miss Sarah L. Stevens, Central Club, Norwalk, were added to the Committee upon a Bureau of Exchange. The meeting was afterwards resolved into a session of the council, and the names of Miss Alice Grey Stanley, Woman's Club, New Britain, and Mrs. F. E. Hartwell, Classics, Monday and Travellers' Club, Danbury, recommended by the directors to fill places made vacant by the resignation of two directors, were approved.

Mrs. T. K. Noble, the president, who was not present at the meeting of organization, though elected unanimously, called the council to order, and made an address, practical, suggestive, and inspiring.

Mrs. Noble is not surpassed as a presiding officer. She has a commanding presence, self-control, presence of mind, and a most gracious manner. The programmes were printed in dark red, the Federation color, with the beautiful coat-of-arms of the State on the outside. As no club was entertaining, the usual formalities of address of welcome and response were omitted. The report of the corresponding secretary showed thirty-seven clubs



MRS. T. K. NOBLE,
President State Federation Woman's
Clubs, Connecticut

in the Federation, with a total membership of seventeen hundred women, seven clubs having been admitted after the organization meeting. The reports of these clubs were remarkably interesting and well given. This is always one of the most important numbers on a programme, yet it is often curtailed for lack of time. The roll call showed all but three clubs present by delegates, and two of these sent cordial greetings.

"Vacation Schools" was the subject of a valuable paper by Miss Clark, of Hartford, who, under the auspices of the Civic Club of that city, directed a "vacation" school during the summer of 1897. A discussion upon "How Can we make Club Conversations Helpful?" was opened by Miss Alice Grey Stanley, of the Woman's Club, New Britain. A pleasant feature was the presentation of a very handsome ebony and ivory gavel from the Central Club, of Norwalk.

Of the one hundred or more clubs in Connecticut, there are but six in the General Federation—the English Literary Club, of Bridgeport; the Woman's Club, of Waterbury; the Saturday Morning Club, of New London; the Woman's Club, of Seymour; the Woman's Club, of Norwalk; and the Woman's Club, of Willimantic. These are in the State federation also, except the New London club. The State chairman writes: "Many of the unfederated clubs in Connecticut are not as yet fully organized. The clubs in the neighborhood of Hartford and New Haven are much interested in the federation idea, and will come into the State or national body before long. They are intelligent women, looking for a larger life, but must be satisfied that it is the better thing before they adopt it. Several of the clubs in the cities are very fine, some doing municipal work, while others are content with their work on literary and artistic lines."

Some clubs write, "We do not need federation," and see no duty in the fact that the federation may need them, and that it is "more blessed to give than to receive."

The following is the list of charter members of the State federation: Woman's Club of Ansonia, Derby and Shelton, Ansonia; Authors' Club, Bric-à-brac Club, Bridgeport League of Ceramic Art, English Literary Club, Mosaic Club, Musical Art Club, Thursday Morning Club, Wednesday Morning Art Class, Cheshire Literary Club, Bridgeport; Afternoon Musical Club, Classics Club, Monday Club, Travellers' Club, Ye Sette of Odde Volumes, Danbury; Ellington Woman's Club; Four Corners Club, Hearthstone Club, Literary Delvers, Hartford; Meriden Review Club; Milford Tuesday Afternoon Club; Moodus Woman's Progressive Educational Club; New Britain Woman's Club; New Canaan Tuesday Afternoon Club; Fortnightly Literary Club, Study Club, New Haven; Northfield Woman's Club; Central Club of Norwalk, Paragraph Club, Woman's Club, Norwalk; Wednesday Afternoon

Club, Norwich; Women's Club, Seymour; Friday Afternoon Club, South Norwalk; Monday Club, Washington; Waterbury Woman's Club; Hawthorne Club, Kalmathian Club, West Haven; Willimantic Woman's Club.

The English Literary Club, of Bridgeport.—It was during the winter of 1879 and 1880 that Mrs. Edward Sterling with several other ladies met at the residence of Rev. A. G. S. McNeille, for the purpose of informal reading and study. In 1882 the present name was adopted, and the work became more systematic and serious. During its eighteen years of life only two members have been taken from the group, and the meetings throughout the club years have been held with the utmost regularity.

The English Literary Club has never had a president; the presiding officer is always the hostess of the evening. But it has two secretaries, recording and corresponding, a treasurer, librarian, and critic.

The Executive Committee consists of the general officers and two other members, and the election takes place annually by acclamation.

The Executive Committee prepares the programme for the year and assigns the work.

The roll call is answered by quotations. The work upon the selected topics is mostly original, and discussion follows.

Much of the early work was given to the literature of the different European countries, with occasional evenings of travel, and short trips, as one from Damascus to Jerusalem. "The Transcendentalists at Brook Farm" was sandwiched in with "The Dykes of Holland" and "Ostrich Farming in Australia."

Current events take a more prominent place in the recent years, and afternoon tea has been introduced with pleasant results. The subjects have become of more present interest, although poetry and folk-lore still hold their own.

The club has also discussed practical questions, such as "Manual Training in Schools," the "Relative Value of Foods," and given time to Parliamentary Drill, as well as to monthly book reviews.

The present officers are presiding officer, the hostess of the evening; Mrs. W. R. Hopson, recording secretary; Mrs. C. S. Cole, corresponding secretary; Mrs. H. E. Raymond, treasurer; Mrs. F. B. Hawley, critic; Mrs. E. A. Lewis, librarian; Executive Committee, Mrs. H. E. Raymond, Mrs. C. S. Cole, Mrs. W. R. Hopson, Mrs. F. B. Hawley, Mrs. T. C. Wordin, Mrs. E. R. Ives, Mrs. E. A. Lewis, Miss Mary W. Hawley.

"How much better would the world go on, if people would, now and then, turn their backs upon themselves."



MRS. ELIZABETH R. ABBOTT,
Founder and First President
Waterbury (Conn.) Woman's
Club



MRS. EMILY W. FRISBIE,
Ex-President Waterbury Woman's Club,
Connecticut



MRS. EMMA L. KINGMAN,
President Waterbury Woman's Club,
Connecticut

The Waterbury Woman's Club was founded in 1888 and is the largest club in the State. Its limited membership of two hundred is full, and although it has as yet been a purely literary club, it has had a remarkable development, and is steadily broadening out into new lines of activity.

"Everywhere in life the true question is, 'Not what we gain, but what we do.'"—Carlyle.

Its standing committees represent Ethics, Art, Literature, Science, Music, and Social Entertainment. It has also committees upon membership, upon printing, and rooms. The club year begins in October and ends in April.

The regular meetings are fortnightly, but there are occasional lectures, and the annual meeting in April follows closely upon the annual reception. Subjects often take the form of a discussion, or symposium, the work done orally by the members of the club, as, for example, "The Love of Literature: How can it be Promoted, and What is its Effect upon the Character?"

"The Relation of the Modern Education of Women to the Problems of Philanthropy" was the subject of a lecture by Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, followed by a reception and club tea.

The Science Committee supplied the question, "Shall Women Take an Active Interest in Municipal Reform?" which excited an animated discussion. But perhaps one of the most delightful of the club experiences was an evening arranged by the Literature and Art committees, when F. Hopkinson Smith lectured on "The Quality of the Picturesque."

In the literary work a thorough study has been made of Matthew Arnold as critic, poet, and essayist.

The club has also had valuable papers on the "Labor Question," "International Arbitration," and the "Influence of Heredity and Environment." It has made important contributions to the Mount Holyoke Endowment Fund and to free kindergarten work.

It has been represented at every biennial since the formation of the General Federation.

Its present officers are: President, Mrs. Emma L. Kingman; vice-president, Mrs. Charlotte B. Hill; recording secretary, Miss Ella Hart; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Nellie A. Buckley; treasurer, Mrs. Mary D. Griggs; auditor, Mrs. Isabella J. Stedman.

The Woman's Club, of Norwalk, was founded by Miss Adelia Dunham Brockway, and looks back upon a most evenly prosperous and pleasant life of twelve years. Talent and ability are so well distributed in this club that it is difficult to find a member that can be called representative. Mrs. Dexter Hitchcock is the president, and has been reelected to that position more than once. The club flower is the bachelor's button, or cornflower; the club color, the blue of the flower. The badge is a pin composed of a silver bar containing the initials "W. C. N." in blue enamel. To this is attached a pendant representing the clubflower in silver and enamel.

In May, 1894, the Woman's Club joined the General Federation, and when the State Federation was formed became one of its charter members. In January, 1896, it celebrated its tenth anniversary at the home of its first president, Mrs. Elizabeth N. Bissell.

The programmes for each year have been



MISS A. D. BROCKWAY,
Founder Woman's Club, of Norwalk,
Conn.

carried out unfailingly. The general subject for 1896-97 was "Our Federal Service," under such topics as "The National Capitol," "The Cabinet," "Diplomatic and Consular Service," "Arbitration and Reciprocity Treaties," "Coast and Harbor Defences," "Military and Naval Academies," "United States Courts," "Skeletons in Our National Closet," "The New South." These topics are presented in a paper by one member, and the conversation upon it led by another member. The papers and conversations upon the general subject for the year alternate with the discussion of current topics by the whole club.

This year, 1897-98, the subject of study is the "State of Connecticut." Some of its divisions, beginning with the "Pioneers of Connecticut," are the "State Constitution and State Government," "The Laws of Connecticut as they Affect Women," "Patriots and Statesmen," "Growth of Industries," "Educational Institutions," "Men of Letters," "Eminent Women," "Influence of the State upon the Union."

Outside of the regular club work there are numerous artistic and literary entertainments which command a high order of professional skill. In addition there are social afternoons in which the attractions consist of music, original sketches, stories, and short poems. An interesting episode was the production of a club novel written jointly by the members and illustrated by one of the number.

The active membership is twenty-five. The officers: President, Mrs. Hitchcock; vice-president, Mrs. W. A. Curtis; secretary, Mrs. Jennings; treasurer, Mrs. Coolidge. There is an Executive Committee of five, the chairman of which is Miss Stevens. The picture of the founder was taken in the year the club was formed.

The Woman's Club, of Willimantic, was organized in 1890. Its charter, membership was eighteen women, which soon grew to thirty-five, and is now seventy. It has been a literary and study club from the beginning, with standing committees upon History and Literature, Science and Art, and Social Life. *"For mutual good and mutual need."*

Its studies have been not only in European History, Literature and Art, but in the beginnings and development of civilized life.

"Wife Capture and Slavery," "The Village Communal System," "The Folk-lore and Cradle-songs of Nations," "National Industries," and "National Music and Musicians" have furnished the interesting topics into which the club membership has put much valuable work.

Socially, it is a delightful club, simple but refined in its ways, and greatly respected by the men of the community. Its work is so valued that its opinions are sought for, and its influence great whenever it chooses to exert it.

The president of the club, Mrs. J. C. Robinson, is one of the oldest

members, and has been reelected for a third term; the secretary is Mrs. M. S. Hathaway.

The Woman's Club, of Seymour, was founded in May, 1892, as a literary and study club by Sara Winthrop Smith, then resident in Seymour, and an active member of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Miss Winthrop was the president for the first two years, and impressed herself so strongly upon the work and life of the club that its membership felt as if the organization must be given up when she removed from Seymour and made her home in Nantucket.

The club did not die, however, nor did the membership resign. On the contrary, it braced up and investigated its resources. The interest of the meetings, to the surprise of some of the members, was maintained, and other women found equal to the task of leadership. The club does not publish its programmes or a year-book, and has never produced but one, which was sent to and lost at the federation exhibit at the World's Fair in Chicago.

In its own quiet way its membership of thirty has done some excellent work. A course of lectures has been given under its auspices, the proceeds of which were given to the town to open a reading-room for young men. The club afterwards contributed a clock to the reading-room.

The president of the club is Mrs. S. L. James, who is also regent of the "Gradu diverso una via." Seymour Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and president of the Daughters of the King of the State of Connecticut.

Mrs. James is a zealous worker, and the club is broadening under her influence. It works under a constitution and by-laws, and is governed by strict parliamentary methods.

To the membership it leaves nothing to be desired, but, like many others, cannot resist the pressure from the outside. Mrs. H. Maria Barber is the federation secretary.

The Central Club, of Norwalk, has a pleasant club-house, situated on West Avenue—the broad and beautiful avenue connecting the cities of Norwalk and South Norwalk. It is intended as a meeting place for all the women's clubs of the town, but it is a separate organization. Any club of



MISS SARA WINTHROP SMITH,
Founder of Woman's Club, of Seymour, Conn.

women, half of whose members belong to the Central Club, has the privilege of holding its regular meetings in the club-house, and the name was given it to indicate this purpose of being a central meeting ground. Each month one of the clubs entertains all the rest, and thus, in an informal way, the effect is that of a city union, though the responsibility and expense are borne by the Central Club. Its home is a roomy, substantial double house, well adapted



CLUB-HOUSE, CENTRAL CLUB,
Norwalk, Conn.

for the purpose to which it is now put. There are assembly rooms, where lectures and entertainments are given; committee rooms, a president's room, class-rooms, members' room; and the Woman's Exchange rents a room twice a week. The club parlors are at the disposal of members for private entertainments upon the payment of a nominal sum, and may be used by others upon the payment of a somewhat larger fee. A competent matron lives in the building.

The effect of such a club in a small town can hardly be overestimated. It is conducted upon broad lines, being a small academy of the arts and sciences, and a place for the social life of the town all in one. Last year there were classes in parliamentary law, physical culture, millinery, German, French, whist, voice culture, social science, current events, first aid to the injured, and lectures upon the "Money Issues of the Campaign," "Hygiene as Applied to the Home," and "Need of Beauty in the Home." There was a month called

"Story Tellers' Month," when authors read their stories aloud—a literary symposium to which were invited all the literary clubs of Norwalk, each contributing a number to the programme; and several delightful musicales, with an "at home" each month.

The work of 1897-98 was begun with great success. October was art month, with lectures upon subjects connected with art, and a most interesting and beautiful exhibition. For November the Committee on Philanthropy announced a sale of articles for the Society of the Self-Respecting Endeavor, the Literary Committee an address upon the "American Spirit and the Library," the Committee on the Home a lecture on "Some Other People's Homes." There was a card party with a basket luncheon. In December the Committee on the Drama gave a play—the first of a series of "dramatic teas," which were found to be very popular last spring. No club member is charged anything but the yearly dues, and outsiders are admitted to classes and lectures for a small sum. Monthly programmes are sent to each member, and notice of the work of the month is posted on the bulletin board at the club-house. The talent and generous help of members of the club are remarkable—a very large proportion of the classes, lectures, and entertainments being contributed by individual members without payment. The Central Club has the honor of giving one of its members to the principal office of the State federation.

Following are the officers and Board of Managers: President, Mrs. James Glynn Gregory; vice-president, Mrs. Isaac S. Jennings; secretary, Miss Dotha Stone Pinneo; treasurer, Miss Helen Ferris.

Managers: Mrs. Francis Burritt, Mrs. Ira Cole, Mrs. G. W. Cram, Mrs. W. A. Curtis, Mrs. Charles Dennis, Mrs. Dexter Hitchcock, Dr. Emily V. D. Pardee, Miss Sarah L. Stevens, Mrs. Robert Van Buren.

The Woman's Club, of New Britain, was organized October 4, 1875, with these officers: President, Mrs. Mahlon Woodruff; vice-president, Mrs. Thomas Conklin; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. George Clary.

The object of the club was the promotion of literary and scientific pursuits, and to increase the social element among the women of the city. The plan of work was to take some period of history, and study in connection with it the art, literature, and science of the period.

A committee of three was appointed for each subject, who were held responsible for the afternoon's entertainment in regular order—history, art, literature, science.

Meetings were held at private houses on alternate Tuesdays, each meeting being devoted to one subject, and all the papers being prepared by club members. During the twenty-two years of its existence the club study has included English, German, Russian, and Roman history and literature; the study of

CONNECTICUT CLUBS

countries, including Egypt, Mexico, Colonial America, United States history; the different schools of art, ceramics, political and social economy, civics, education, etc., the work being done almost exclusively by members. Since 1893 the club has met in a public hall, the membership, which is not limited, having increased to one hundred and thirty-two.

The main subject for this year is "The Evolution of the Novel"; the subject to be opened by a lecture by Richard Burton, who, in connection with the committee, has laid out the work for the year. This club does not belong to the General Federation, but assisted in forming the Connecticut State Federation in April, 1897.

The Woman's Club, of Ansonia, Derby, and Shelton, is a flourishing organization, that provided a series of brilliant meetings last year. No response was received to our appeal for information with regard to it, however.

The Chandler Thinking Club, of Hartford, held its first meeting in April, 1897. Its only officer is, for the present, a director. That director is Miss Thrasher, the founder of the club. She assigns topics for study and discussion, and arranges all details as to its meetings. The object of the club is development of character and mind. Current events are discussed, and during the coming winter some author or inventor and his work will be studied and discussed at each meeting. Meetings are held once in two weeks, and are informal, though in charge of the director. It is not federated. Membership at present is about fifteen; it is not limited, but will probably never be more than twenty-five. The prospects for 1897-98 are excellent. Its director and founder is very much in earnest in regard to the work, and is desirous of making it a really helpful club, with as little formality and "organization" as possible. While the membership is not limited to women, the majority are young women.

The Conversation Club, of Hartford, was formed in 1888. The original members were: Miss Sarah Legaste, president; Mrs. Mark Howard, Mrs. John R. Buck, Mrs. James McManus, Miss Mary Burr. It is not in any federation. Members do not write papers. Current events are given every week by a committee appointed by the president. Reviews are also given of books, with some account of the author. The annual meeting is held in May. Membership is seventeen, limited to twenty-five, although the club never had a larger number than at present, believing the work better done with a small number. The officers now are: Mrs. John R. Buck, president; Mrs. Joseph H. Cone, secretary.

The Connecticut Indian Association, although not exactly what is understood as a woman's club, has accomplished so much good and taken such foremost rank among similar organizations, as to merit recognition in

every possible way. It was organized in October, 1881, and incorporated March, 1887. It has an annual income of about \$2,500, which is judiciously expended for missionary and educational work among the Indians. It has a mission house, with day school and Sunday services, on the Fort Hall (Idaho) Reservation. It was the pioneer society to make possible to Indian women a thorough course of instruction in the State Training School for Nurses. The Connecticut Indian Association has undertaken four distinct departments of labor in behalf of Indians—pioneer mission work, educational work, instruction in practical farming, and home-building on reservations. This association was the first in the country to loan money to Indians to assist them in building homes upon lands in severalty granted them by the United States Government. It was again first in guaranteeing the support and medical education of Indians, with the expectation that after graduation they should return to their own people in the capacity of medical missionaries. The officers are: President, Mrs. Sara T. Kinney, New Haven; general secretary, Mrs. Sara A. Booth, New Haven; treasurer, Miss Sara B. Huntington, Hartford; auditor, Charles T. Welles, of the Hartford City Bank. The Advisory Board contains such names as Hon. Joseph B. Hawley, Bishop Williams, Professor Wayland, and many equally as well known. Executive Committee: Mrs. George Williamson Smith, Mrs. M. D. Thompson, Mrs. W. H. Palmer, Mrs. J. A. Newell, Mrs. F. E. Hinman, of Meriden, Mrs. Henry C. Griggs of Waterbury, Mrs. Henry Rogers, Mrs. W. P. Blake, Mrs. S. A. Galpin, all of New Haven; Mrs. George Woodruff of Litchfield, and Mrs. C. J. Camp of Winsted.

The Four-Corners Club was organized in 1878. It was then called the Shakespeare Club, and kept that name until 1892, when it was changed to the Four-Corners Club. The name signifies the extreme localities in the city where the different members reside. The first president, acting as secretary, was Miss M. Ella Riley; the vice-president, acting as treasurer, was Miss Edith Spencer. The first few years were occupied by the reading and studying of Shakespeare's plays, with an occasional afternoon given to some well-known author, his life and works. The next three years were devoted to the study of Germany, except part of one winter, taken up with an outline study of architecture. The following four seasons were given to the study of the English people. In 1897 the fourth season's continuous work on the history of America and the development of States proved most interesting. One afternoon each month is given to the discussion of current events. This club is a charter member of the Connecticut Federation. There are thirteen active and a number of honorary members. The present officers are: President and secretary, Mrs. Joseph E. Root; vice-president and treasurer, Mrs. Charles Henny.

The H. G. L. Shakespeare Club, of Hartford, was founded January 16, 1883. The officers were: Miss Stiles, president; Miss McKegg, vice-president; Miss Thompson, secretary; Miss Hitchcock, treasurer. Meetings are held on first and third Mondays from October to June. Three plays are read during the season, one act occupying each meeting. Of the twelve original members, six are still active workers. Social affairs are given every New Year's eve, and the club celebrated its tenth anniversary in 1893. The club has never joined any federation, but has a constitution and by-laws, with absence fines and annual dues. For a number of years it subscribed to *The Shakespeariana* and *Poet Lore*, hence the position of "librarian." The club read this winter the tragedies of "Othello," "King Lear," and "Macbeth," having finished "Hamlet" in the spring. The supervisor gives out the parts to each member, who is supposed to be thoroughly prepared before each meeting. After reading, members discuss the various peculiar expressions or obsolete words. The coming January will be the fifteenth anniversary, and will be appropriately observed. The annual meeting occurs on the third Monday in September. Membership is limited to twelve, always keeping the full number. The present officers are: President, Miss Thompson; vice-president, Miss McClunie; secretary, Mrs. Howe; treasurer, Miss Williams; supervisor, Miss Whitney; critic, Miss Thompson; librarian, Miss Carey.

The Literary Delvers, of Hartford, was informally organized in October, 1892, with Mrs. J. C. Kimball as leader, for the purpose of studying the lives and writings of the leading American authors. The next year the club organized more formally, with a constitution, club name, and the offices of president, secretary, and treasurer. In April, 1897, it joined the Connecticut Federation, and sent delegates to the State meeting at Bridgeport. Its object is improvement solely, there being no time for social enjoyment except at the close of the year, when the club has its annual banquet, with toasts, poems, and the like. Membership is not limited, yet has never exceeded twenty. The work for the present winter is along the same line as heretofore, taking American writers chronologically, and reviewing their principal works with biographical sketches. Each member is expected to do her part in the work, and assignments are made a week in advance. No initiation fee is demanded, as the desire is to keep the club free to all who are interested in its work and who will work for the benefit of all. Meetings are held weekly on Monday evening; a fee of five cents is asked for being absent. The present officers are Mrs. J. C. Kimball, president; Miss Kate F. Ellis, vice-president; Mrs. J. Q. Baker, treasurer, and Mrs. J. B. Spencer, secretary. Annual meeting occurs on the first Monday in November.

The Saturday Club, of New London, was founded in January, 1895, with seven members. It has now increased to thirty-five, and there is no limit.

Miss Maria F. Starr has been president from the start. Mrs. Colin S. Buell was secretary and treasurer for two years, and Mrs. Susan Irene Hill now fulfils the duties of those offices. This club joined the General Federation in January, 1896, but has not yet united with the State federation. Current topics and English literature have been studied, and this year American history is the subject. The annual meeting is held the first Saturday in January. There are two other unfederated clubs in New London—the Tuesday Club, composed of young ladies and doing very good work, and the Weekly Review Club.

The Young Women's Friendly League, of Waterbury, developed from a meeting which was held in Waterbury on November 15, 1889, and its first officers were Miss Katherine L. Peck, president; Miss Mary M. Abbott, vice-president; Mrs. George S. Abbott, recording secretary; Miss Constance G. DuBois, corresponding secretary; Miss Helen E. Chase, treasurer. A club-room was opened near the centre of the city on January 1, 1890, and during that year educational classes were formed, to which have been added, as desired, industrial branches, nearly all of which are free. These have continued with but slight interruption, although varying in the number of attendants. They are taught by voluntary instructors, and the subjects are reading, arithmetic, bookkeeping, penmanship, stenography, typewriting, history, elocution, drawing, physical training, sight reading of music and chorus practice, embroidery, plain sewing and mending, dressmaking and fitting. During the first twelve months the membership so increased that additional room became a necessity, and in December, 1891, a removal was made to a large business block. For the next year and a half there was but slight change in methods or personal management, but in May, 1892, the Board of Officers declined reelection and a new board was elected. In 1894 it again became necessary to have enlarged accommodations, and on November 27th possession was taken of newly acquired rooms; but on December 28th following, the building was destroyed by fire and the league was without a home. However, a temporary place was found in the Industrial School building and the classes were gathered as usual. Four days later the club was settled, where it remained for six months, when, on account of inadequate room, a transfer was made into the vacated building of the Bronson Library, which it occupied for twelve months, and on July 1, 1896, a final removal was made into the league's own building, it having acquired a property valued at \$20,000 through the generosity of some of its friends. On April 14, 1893, a charter incorporating the league was procured from the Legislature. This charter, as amended in 1895, permits the league to hold real and personal property to the amount of \$50,000, and provides for the appointment of a self-perpetuating advisory board. In May, 1892, the Friendly League joined the Connecticut Association

of Working Girls' Societies, the fourth State convention of which was held at Waterbury in 1894. The seaside summer vacation house is at Madison, Conn., and is shared by all working women's clubs which belong to the State association.

The object of the Young Women's Friendly League, which is non-sectarian and undenominational, is the development of intellectual, industrial, and social character in self-supporting girls and young women. It aims to assist the wage-earner to become better fitted for life's duties, responsibilities, and pleasures. Its expenses are met by the dues of active club members and entertainments given by them, fees from classes, annual dues of associate and subscription members, and the contributions of friends. The membership of the organization, which is unlimited, numbers two hundred, and the Board of Officers for 1897 is as follows: President, Miss Anna L. Ward; vice-presidents, Miss Ellen R. Townsend, Mrs. Frederick B. Rice, Mrs. Edmund Rowland, Mrs. Arthur Reed Kimball, Miss Ella Hart, Mrs. Roger S. Wotkyns, Mrs. Charles Miller, Mrs. Oscar W. Noble, Miss Caroline Goss, Mrs. Julius Maltby; secretary, Miss Katharine L. Spencer; assistant secretary, Miss Katherine D. Hamilton; treasurer, Miss Florentine H. Hayden; assistant treasurer, Miss Martha C. Wells; superintendent, Miss Cornelia B. Lawson.

Some Early and Later Clubs.—Among the early social gatherings was one in Bridgeport which met in the fifties, and was called the Cosy Club. Thirteen young girls met fortnightly at the home of an older friend, each bringing her sewing. In turn they read aloud from some entertaining book; sometimes plays or poems. At six o'clock they all sat down to tea, provided by the hostess, and the evening was spent in dancing, charades, whist, or any other form of amusement prepared by the party assembled, to which, after tea, were added young men and married people.

This circle existed for a number of years intermittently, the members who dropped out by marriage or removal being sometimes filled with others, who would endeavor to revive the old spirit. There was no organization, and no purpose except that of giving an interest to social gatherings.

Its latest revival was when Mrs. Louise M. Thomas, of New York, visited Bridgeport in 1863. The Cosy Club was reported at the birthday meeting of Sorosis in 1889, but shortly after collapsed, and has not been in active existence for some years. It was 1879 before there is any record of the organization of a woman's literary club, at which time one of these, the Ladies' Literary Club, of Bridgeport, began as a reading circle at the residence of their minister. The majority of women's clubs in Connecticut have appeared within the past fifteen years, and are nearly all of them literary or educational in motive, with social features added. Most of them are small and have a certain local flavor, which is interesting but somewhat uniform, and has grown out of the strict

conventionality of the old environment. Hartford has fifteen small clubs, each pursuing its special course and working toward the acquisition of a certain sum of knowledge.

The Ansonia, Derby, and Shelton Woman's Club is a club of towns rather than a club of clubs. It acquired 250 members within its first year of organization.

At the time of the formation of the General Federation several clubs were in existence, but only one represented by its president. This was the Waterbury Woman's Club, too young and too timid to be represented by delegate, but present in the person of its founder and president, Mrs. Elizabeth Robinson Abbott, who, as a result, was made State chairman of correspondence for Connecticut, a position which she held for six years.

A great stimulus was thus given to the club life of women.

The Dakotas

THE women's clubs of North and South Dakota are not as yet numerous, the population being scattered and the settled towns few in number. But it is interesting to note that they began with the "entrance of the first locomotive," and have maintained existence on the lines of social and literary progress from that time to the present, constantly growing in membership and influence.

Besides the clubs whose records are given, there are philanthropic, temperance, and political societies, that form an active propaganda in their several fields, and have, many of them, adopted social club features.

The Nineteenth Century Club, of Deadwood, is called the "Political Equality Club," but it is honestly endeavoring to educate its members in the science and philosophy of government, and also has a civic side. It has aided the Children's Home of Sioux Falls, to which children are sent from other parts of the State; and like many clubs in newly settled communities, lends a hand wherever needed.

NORTH DAKOTA

The club life of women in North Dakota began in the eighties; 1884 is the earliest date of which there is record of a woman's literary club.

In that year the Woman's Club of Fargo was organized, and in the same year the Pioneer Reading Club, of Grand Forks. It says much for the earnest purpose of the women who formed these organizations, that they were maintained in the face of all the obstacles incident to pioneer life and a most discouraging environment.

The desire for mental improvement, for a companionship that would recall old school and intellectual associations, were the inspiring motives. One of them writes: "Our Western women are really Eastern women transplanted, and many of us look back to homes in dear old New York or New England. My old home was on the shores of Owasco Lake, and I am now visiting with a delightful club-woman, whose husband is a Princeton graduate, and who still speaks of New York as 'home.' So, in your thought of us,

do not feel as if we were anything strange or 'far off,' but only live, growing, enthusiastic members of this wonderful latter-day movement represented by the General Federation of Women's Clubs."

North Dakota, represented by three clubs in the General Federation, has upwards of thirty scattered over its wide territory. The earliest and most prominent of these are centred in Fargo, a very progressive and enlightened town. The desire to unite the club interests took shape in North Dakota, July, 1897, when, through the effort of Miss M. A. Whedon, of Fargo, editor of *Western Womanhood*, arrangements were made for two "women's days," to be held at Devil's Lake during the session of the Chautauquan Assembly. The 9th and 10th of July were the dates agreed upon, and the presence of representative women of Dakota and neighboring States secured. One of the addresses was by Mrs. Charles E. Conant, of Minneapolis, a vice-president of the Minnesota State Federation, upon the advantage of the federated club work and the need of State organization as a connecting link between the general body and the local club.

Previous to the two days' session the question arose—"Will there ever be a better time than the present to lay the foundation of a State federation?"

Notices were sent out widely, and nine clubs responded by sending accredited delegates. The following morning (July 10th), after Mrs. Conant's address, the delegates met, and worked so heartily and unitedly that by noon the North Dakota State Federation was an accomplished fact, with a constitution, by-laws, and officers. The Woman's Club, Fortnightly Club, Literary Teacups, Fargo; Pioneer Reading Club, Tourist Club, Omega Club, Grand Forks; Nineteenth Century Club, Devil's Lake; Fleur-de-Lis, Cando; Book and Thimble, Wahpeton, were the organizations represented in its formation, and they elected Mrs. J. S. Tuller, of the Fortnightly, Fargo, president; Mrs. L. B. Sowles, of the Book and Thimble Club, secretary; Mrs. Laura Estes, of the Pioneer Reading Club, treasurer, and Mrs. S. M. Prosser, of the Nineteenth Century Club, auditor.

The Board of Directors consists of a representative from each of the clubs federated, and the six vice-presidents are chosen, one from each of the judicial districts in the State.

Mrs. Tuller, the president of the federation, was educated in Auburn, N. Y., and removed to Dakota with her husband in 1885. Since their residence in Fargo she has been an active participant in its organized life, and her wide experience and sympathetic nature will greatly help the active growth of a State organization.

The first annual meeting was called for October 21st and 22d, at Fargo. The attendance was large, and the address of welcome, delivered by Mrs.



MRS. JENNIE TULLER,
President North Dakota Federation

Judge Amidon, reviewed the work already accomplished, and received a fitting response from Mrs. E. B. Stull, of Valley City.

Additional clubs represented were the Woman's Club of Mayville, Woman's Club of Lisbon, Musical Club of Fargo, Tuesday Club of Valley City, and Book and Thimble Club of Fairmount.

The gathering was a very interesting and notable one in many ways. It brought the women from different parts of the State into closer relations, and to many of them, who had known of federated possibilities only by hearsay, was a revelation as well as an inspiration.

The addresses were unusually fine in their literary quality, and presented the great subjects of education, interfellowship, and civic duty in a clear and enlightened

manner, showing how much had been accomplished in other States in these directions by State organization and local clubs.

The papers by Mrs. Kilbourne, of Lisbon; Mrs. Tabor and Mrs. Douglas, of Morehead, were especially useful, and the hospitality extended by the clubs and club-women of Fargo a delightful part of the programme.

Mrs. Tuller presided with marked ability and courteous and quick recognition of every claim to attention, and was reelected by a hearty and unanimous vote.

State committees were appointed upon education, consisting of Mrs. Kilbourne, of Lisbon, and Mrs. Davis, superintendent of schools in Cass County.

A Committee on Reciprocity was formed, with Mrs. J. S. Knox, Wahpeton, chairman, and Mrs. Stearnberg, of Valley City, second member; Committee on State Insignia, Mrs. L. B. Sowles, Mrs. Prosser, and Mrs. Alice Davidson. Five delegates were elected to be sent to the General Federation in Denver, Colo., in 1898: the president, Mrs. Tuller; Mrs. Amidon, Mrs. J. E. Phelan, Mrs. Torgenson, Mayville, and Mrs. Morrill, Wahpeton.

Mrs. Amidon's opening address was printed in full. It closed with the following words: "As the federation stands to-day we represent young communities, and a young State, with the mingled strength and weakness, the potentialities and crudities of extreme youth. Young communities, like young people, are good in their impulses, but sometimes hasty in their actions. Nor are flippancy and unresponsibility quite outgrown.

"It is possible for a woman's club to grow up in each community, so generous in its scope, earnest in aim, and permeating in influence, that it shall become a recognized power for the best of which its community is capable, and the aggregated influence, as represented in the federation, an appreciable force in educating the public opinion of the State."

Wahpeton was selected as the place for the second annual meeting, and the time, the third week in October, 1898.

The Woman's Club, of Fargo, N. Dak., was founded in 1884 by Mrs. A. H. Dickson, who interested a group of women, all busy housekeepers and mothers, in an effort to revive past acquaintance in history and literature, and keep in touch with the literary and scientific movement of to-day.

The club was broad in scope, though limited in membership to forty women, the meetings taking place at the homes of the members. The work has been thorough, as the purpose was serious, and the pleasure in it seems to have grown with the years.

Though unable to largely extend its own membership, it has been instrumental in establishing two other clubs similar in character—the Fortnightly and the Literary Teacups. These are, like the Woman's Club, primarily for study and literary work through papers and discussion, but, while not distinctively philanthropic or civic, can still be relied upon for coöperation in any good work when needed.

The Woman's Club has now standing committees upon sociology, household economics, education, music, art and drama, in addition to its regular work in history and literature. In the department of sociology it has studied, during the past year, "Criminology," "Race Characteristics a Factor in the Community," "Effect of Marriage and Divorce Laws," and the "Effect of Social Organizations upon Home Life." In literature some of the topics have been: "Have We an American Literature?" "Probable Advantage of an American Academy," and "International Copyright," first from the author's and after from the publisher's point of view.

In the studies of the drama have been: "History of the Drama in Germany, France, England, and Norway," "American Drama: Adaptation from Foreign Plays," "Howells's Farces of Dialogue," "The Starring System:



MRS. ELIZABETH DICKSON,
Founder of Woman's Club, Fargo,
N. Dak.



MRS. L. F. NEWMAN,
President of Woman's Club, Fargo,
N. Dak.

Its Effect upon Dramatists." The historical course for 1897 was: "Japan: the Aborigines, Mythology, and Folklore," "Japan during the Dark Ages," "Sujin the Civilizer," "Introduction of Continental Civilization," "The Throne and the Noble Families," "Creation of Dual System of Government," "Invasion of the Tartars," "The War of the Chrysanthemums," "Japan from 1200 to 1872," "Growth and Customs of Feudalism," "Christianity and Foreigners," "Perfection and Duarchy of Feudalism and Its Decline," "Customs in Japan," "Marriage Ceremony; Funerals; Births; Dreams; Rules of Caste; Etiquette; Journeys; Sacred Trees; Entertainment of Guests; Games," "Woman and Home Life in Japan," "Arts and Industries in Japan," "Education in Japan."

The scientific studies were directed to "Pasteur: His Discoveries and Their Influence," "Contemporaries' Experiments," "Spontaneous Generation," "Practical Results of Bacteriological Researches."

Through the Educational Committee the club has discussed "Mechanical Conditions on which Thought Depends," "Reaction Time," "Methods of Association," "Objects of Education—(a), Political; (b), Industrial; (c), Intellectual; (d), Ethical," "National Gradation of Schools."

The club has formed a library which is steadily growing in books and value, and felt to be "a strengthener of all that is best in life, if only the books that are truly worth reading are read."

The thoughtful and suggestive character of these subjects shows a breadth of intelligence that is well borne out by their treatment. The year-books are models of manner as well as matter, and typographically admirable. The home department is by no means neglected. Disraeli furnishes its motto: "I have always felt that the best security for civilization is the dwelling, and that upon properly appointed and becoming homes depends, more than anything else, the improvement of mankind."

Home topics discussed have been: "Use and Abuse of Ornamentation in the Home," "Food for Children, Mental and Bodily," "Domestic Service in Germany, France, England, and Japan."

The president of the Woman's Club of Fargo is Mrs. Laura F. Newman; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Anna M. W. White; treasurer, Mrs. Mary L. Tilly; recording secretary, Mrs. C. J. Morill; vice-president, Mrs. Martha C. Pollock; second vice-president, Mrs. J. B. Angell.

The Programme Committee for 1897 were Clara L. Darrow, Mary M. Fisher, and Frances B. Sheldon.

The Woman's Club of Fargo was represented at the first convention of women's clubs, in 1889, by report, and was one of the first to become affiliated with the greater movement of the General Federation.

The Pioneer Reading Club, of Grand Forks, began with a little gathering of three women in 1884, for the purpose of reading for mutual improvement. It grew into a membership of fifteen, which it fixed as its limit. It has always been a reading and study club, but its course has been consecutive in the treatment of its subjects, which, after they have been exhaustively studied, have been subject to review, and furnished topics for original papers by some of the club members. It is a club of thoughtful women, most of them absorbed in domestic cares, and finding in their club their principal intellectual aid and stimulus.

The Literary Teacups, of Fargo, was composed, in the beginning, of ladies from the Unitarian Church, who met, at the invitation of Mrs. E. B. Winship, to organize a society for social and literary culture and philanthropic work.

The membership was not confined to any set or body, but open to all who sympathized in the aims.

The meetings are held weekly at the homes of the members, and the teacup figures, but not till the conclusion of the more important exercises.

One of the literary features was a composite novel, each chapter contributed by a different member: Each one had her own set of characters, and these produced such a literary confusion that a supplementary chapter and wholesale slaughter were needed to get rid of them and bring the book to a close.

In the line of philanthropy the Teacups have done some good work, mainly directed towards local relief, the free kindergarten, and the Children's Home.

The Fortnightly Club, of Fargo, was called together in May, 1895, through the instrumentality of Mrs. Josephine Folsom. Its object was the study and discussion of history, literature, modern science, and art. The work of the year lasts from September 1st to June, and the study (1897) was English history, diversified by original papers and descriptions of personages and places.



MRS. A. M. W. WHITE,
Corresponding Secretary of Woman's
Club, Fargo, N. Dak.

There are also literary receptions at the homes of members, which are a delightful feature of the club life.

The Book and Thimble Club, of Wahpeton, was born in December, 1895, with fifteen members. The study of the first year was United States history, followed by English history. The growth in numbers was rapid, and the membership limit of thirty was soon reached. The attendance has been full and interested. No member fails to perform the work assigned her, and the progress in method, therefore, is steady and gratifying.

The Tourist Club, of Grand Forks, was called together by Mrs. William Caswell on the 8th of February, 1897. The name indicates the purpose. At first a tour through Mexico was planned and pursued. This was followed by a more carefully outlined tour in the Holy Land, which still occupies the club, and which it finds most interesting and profitable.

The Omega Club was organized in March, 1897, for the purpose of improvement through the study of English literature. The membership is limited to fifteen, and the meetings are weekly, at the homes of the members.

Tennyson has been the author studied, but Macaulay's "History of England" has received attention also, and stimulated the desire for historical as well as literary work.

The Nineteenth Century Club, of Devil's Lake, was organized July 10th on the assembly grounds of the North Dakota Chautauqua Association. The impulse came from the inspiration of the "women's days." This club is in its infancy, and the work is only generally outlined in the direction of literary study and the discussion of current events; but it is active, and will have a story in the future.

The Langdon Woman's Club differs in its original intention from the majority of the clubs organized for study purposes. It was the heat of political discussion that first stimulated the women of Langdon to form a class for the study of the tariff, the currency question, and the United States Constitution. These subjects occupied the first three months. When the class finally settled down to permanent work it decided upon American literature, alternating with household economics, as subjects for regular study and discussion. The club has begun the collection of books for the formation of a club library, and subscribes to some of the leading periodicals. It has adopted as a motto, "*Lifting better up to best.*"

The Woman's Club of Leadville.—This club of forty women was organized August 7, 1895, by Mrs. Havillah Squires, of Chicago. Its work, so far, has been the study of parliamentary law, American literature, and civil government. It also devotes a half hour at every meeting to current events. It is the only woman's club in Leadville, and joined the General Federation

in 1896. It is active, and interested in public and social questions, and constantly growing. The president in 1897 was Mrs. Vida S. Collins.

The Ladies' History Club, of Sioux Falls, S. Dak., began in January, 1879, with an informal gathering of ten or twelve women, who met once a week at the home of some one of the group, for the study of English history. The leader of the class was Mrs. Alice J. Watson.

In the second year of its existence a club organization was effected, of which Mrs. Watson was made the president, and a secretary added, in order that a record might be kept. Mrs. Watson remained the president until her removal to Grand Rapids, Mich., in the spring of 1884.

The following October the club reorganized, adopted a constitution and by-laws, and elected a full corps of officers.

Its fortunes were varying until it joined the General Federation in 1892, when it seemed to take a new lease of life. From that time the club has had an active, zealous membership of fifty women, and was never more in earnest or more enthusiastic in its work than at the present time. During all its earlier years an undeviating course of historical study was pursued. But though the name of History Club is retained, the work has become broader and the programmes more diversified in character. The club, however, is proud of its early beginning—less than six months from the time the first locomotive steamed into the far Western town—and that it retained existence in the midst of the changing conditions and varying population until it has become one of the permanent and recognized institutions of the thriving metropolis of South Dakota.

Among the earlier members who have left the city were Mrs. Eliza Tupper Wilkes, who is filling the pulpit of a large Unitarian church in California, and Rev. Caroline J. Bartlett, of Kalamazoo, Mich., whose name has travelled far beyond the two States that claim her.

The club motto is, "She flies with her own wings."

Among the subjects studied and discussed in 1896 and 1897 have been: "The Progress of Women in the Last Fifty Years," "Our General Government," "Constitution of the United States," "Provincialism," "The Government of South Dakota: Its Officers, Its Laws," "Laws of the State Affecting



MRS. A. J. WATSON,
First President Ladies' History Club,
Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

Women as Wives, Mothers, and Owners of Property," "Taxes and Methods of Raising Revenues and Appropriation of Same," "A Trio of Philosophers: Socrates, Aristotle, Spinoza," "Skeletons in Our National Closet," "The Red Man," "The Black Man."

Current events have a place upon certain of the programmes, and sometimes suggest topics, as "Condition of the Laboring Classes: Is it Improving?" "Unions, Strikes, and Boycotts."

Once a month there is a social evening, when gentlemen are permitted, and annually there is an entertainment, which usually takes the form of a picnic. The club is pleasantly housed in the public library rooms of Sioux Falls; and its officers are: President, Mrs. Mark Russell; vice-president, Mrs. James Beattie; secretary, Mrs. T. S. Roberts; treasurer, Mrs. George W. Burnside; critic, Mrs. J. M. Glidden. The critic of the Ladies' History Club is the corresponding secretary of the Nineteenth Century Club and the librarian of the Deadwood Public Library.

The Nineteenth Century Club was organized in 1895 with seven charter members. It meets at the home of the president.

The Round Table Club, of Deadwood, was formed in February, 1887, when Mrs. M. J. Gaston invited four ladies—Mrs. Morse and her daughter, Mrs. Fox; Mrs. Coe and her daughter, Miss Clara Coe—to meet at her home and discuss the advisability of forming a woman's literary club.

These five ladies, sitting round a table, enthusiastically adopted the idea, and proceeded to immediate organization by electing Mrs. Gaston the first president. The table suggested the name, and it has been a feature of the many delightful social and literary gatherings.

The meetings have been of a rather informal character, and it was not until 1896 that it joined the General Federation and issued a printed year-book. These steps of progress have been of great value to the membership, uniting it to a larger body of interests, and



MRS. MARK RUSSELL,
President Ladies' History Club,
Sioux Falls, S. Dak.



MRS. J. M. GLIDDEN,
Critic Ladies' History Club,
Sioux Falls, S. Dak.

giving better form to the work. The meetings are held weekly at the houses of members. The qualifications for membership are character, intelligence, and ability to promote the success of the club. The annual dues "*Sapere aude.*" are two dollars; the club colors, purple and gold; the emblem, a pansy; and "*Sapere aude*" the sentiment. The anniversaries are anticipated as among the most successful of social functions. Handsome souvenir menus are presented to the guests, gentlemen as well as ladies. Upon one of these occasions the dishes were described as:

"Pinked manufacturers of jewels.

"One of the sons of Noah, rescued from hot water.

"Fragments of a famous watering place.

"Artistic protoplasm.

"Emblems of peace.

"Confusions from the Far East.

"A Dutch admiral pluralized, seasoned with earth's best.

"The staff of life, in two colors.

"The first two syllables of the name of the Sultan of Turkey and Syria, in which may be found a mother in toto and 'The Lay of the Last Minstrel,' served with the 'poor white trash' of Georgia, sprinkled with an ancient form of courtesy.

"An expression of terror in the first person, flavored with a scorched term of endearment, with which will come the pleasant things of life.

"Then will be served what Pope said 'makes the politician wise.'

"Wines will not be served, but if they were they would be the first two syllables of an American general's name, the first syllable of the name of an English authoress, and Fiction's distress.

"Guests are requested to be a governor of Virginia, begged to be an English statesman, and urged to be an English poet."

The president at that time was Mrs. Moody, the wife of Judge Moody, who replied to the toast of "Our President" in a very witty speech. The hosts of the occasion were Judge and Mrs. Moody, and the toast-mistress, Mrs. Gaston.

A feature of the evening was a literary game called "Who am I?" The prize, a handsome set of Emerson's essays, was won by one of the ladies, who resigned it to the first gentleman, Mr. A. D. Wilson. Supper was then



MRS. MARIE J. GASTON,
First President of Round Table Club,
Deadwood, S. Dak.

announced, each guest drawing a card with a name corresponding to one on a ribbon, on the table. The names were taken from French, English, and American history and literature, studied by the club during the past years.

The Round Table held the first reciprocity meeting, January 8, 1897, ever held in the Black Hills. All the clubs known in South Dakota were invited, and the occasion was one of great interest.

Among the papers given on this occasion, one upon "The Inception, Growth, and Influence of Women's Clubs in America" excited much interest. The features, however, were the speeches of the delegates and the reports of the clubs they represented. These were most suggestive and inspiring to club-women in sparsely settled localities, and demonstrated the value of such gatherings.

The Woman's Club, of Watertown, S. Dak., was organized in March, 1889, with a membership limit of fifteen. This it retains. It was started as a study club, but its work has varied. It began with ancient history and studies of famous people, men and women. It has in turn taken up English history and literature, followed by American history and historical courses derived from other countries.

It has a "blunder" box open at every meeting, from which the members derive great benefit. Roll-call is responded to by quotations, current events, original verses, conundrums—anything that is bright and apt.

The secretary of the club is Mrs. Agnes Sheafe, who is also the secretary of a Shakespearean club of men and women in Watertown.

Delaware

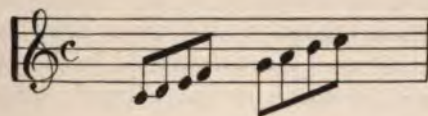


How the New Century Club of Wilmington Grew.—On January 14, 1897, the New Century Club, of Wilmington, Del., celebrated its "octave" of years, and struck eight notes to symbolize the occasion, each note being a tableau, a dialogue, or a song, the whole making history as well as a delightful entertainment.

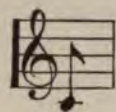
Before the "Song of the Years" was presented, the club was the recipient of congratulations and greetings from Sorosis, "Our Grandmother," represented by Mrs. J. C. Croly; from the New Century Club of Philadelphia, "Our Mother," through Mrs. M. R. Hall; from "Our Eldest Daughter," in Chester, Pa.; "Our Second Daughter," in Westchester, Pa., and "Our Third Daughter," in Kennett Square, Pa., who each brought filial greeting to the maternal anniversary.

"The Club of Ye Olden Time," which formed the prologue to the play, was a pretty scene of an old-fashioned tea-party, costumes and dialogue of the "olden days." It was accompanied by an original and picturesque representation of the "Song of the Years." It is not possible to reproduce the living pictures of our memorable day, but it is the privilege of the historian to model the club history upon its scenic lines.

THE SONG OF THE YEARS



The "Song of the Years" was written and set to music by two members, Mrs. S. M. Spaulding and Miss Emma Lore. It was illustrated by eight young girls, grouped within a massive frame of gold, at the top of which glittered, in electric lights, eight notes of music entwined with roses. As the curtain rose their voices lifted in chorus the "Song":



COMMENCEMENT.

Sketch: Two women were speeding homeward upon a train, after a day spent with members of the New Century Club in Philadelphia.

"Why can't we have a club in Wilmington?" was an inquiry made with enthusiasm, for the conversation had turned that way.

"Oh! do you think our ladies would consider it *proper* to belong to a woman's club?" came the counter question with serious and deliberate emphasis.

"Oh! yes, when they understand its purpose and motive. It seems to me the very thing that is needed. Why not invite Mrs. Ames and Mrs. Longstreth, of the Philadelphia New Century, to meet with us some day? Their happy way of presenting the matter will convince our ladies that such a movement is possible."

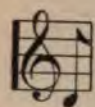
"Well, we might try it, but we must be sure to consider carefully its propriety before undertaking it," was the friendly warning.



As an historic fact, the outcome of this discussion was that Mrs. F. B. Ames and Mrs. A. W. Longstreth kindly responded to solicitation, and that their presentation of the subject resulted in an organization on January 14, 1889, of the New Century Club of Wilmington, with a membership of sixty, and the election of a highly esteemed woman, Mrs. A. L. Conant, to the presidency. It soon found there was nothing on earth so proper, so natural, so altogether delightful, as a woman's club. The mem-

bership rapidly increased, and classes in languages and music were formed—the work of an Educational Committee. The first outside effort was to invite the Wilmington Board of Education to meet Professor Sayre, of Philadelphia, and listen to his admirable address on "Manual Training." At an early date a Manual Training Department was introduced in the High School, and soon after a similar one was provided in the colored school. Both have been most successfully conducted.

A special event in the initial year was when, at the age of six weeks, delegates attended the notable gathering of Sorosis given in honor of its majority. Then the General Federation of Women's Clubs was cradled, and our club had the honor of being the youngest born to join the National Federation fraternity.



DEVELOPMENT. This was illustrated by a group of pioneer members, crowding in limited quarters, and Mrs. E. C. McCaulley narrated the surprises enjoyed from the fluent pens and fertile brains of members whose latent gifts were unexpectedly brought to light. Those were days of awakening. Talent could no longer slumber, but must be stirred to activity, and the woman's possibilities acknowledged. The annual report of that year states that French, German, and harmony classes were vigorously at work, and the Philanthropy and Education Committees found ample fields. It was already manifest that the club was in earnest, and a sincere purpose animated every member. Mrs. J. T. Gause was elected second president.

A lecture course was arranged which included Amelia B. Edwards, Helen Campbell, and Miss Kirby, of Philadelphia; the latter addressed the Board of Education upon "Sewing for the Schools." Subsequently this department was introduced in the grammar grades of the public schools, where it has achieved excellent results. Club motives now being more definitely understood, it was evident the right chords had been touched. Members were crowding in and larger accommodations were imperative. This made a club house not only desirable but a necessity of growing life and work.

In October, 1890, Mrs. Emalea P. Warner was elected to the presidency.



EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. As the curtain rolled aside for this scene, the Executive Committee was discovered discussing the possibilities of building. It was teeming with enthusiasm, hope, and determination. Outline plans of a building had been sketched, and over these the committee diligently worked. Questions were asked and answered or not in rapid succession and confusion. How much there was to think of and do! "We must have a charter! Be incorporated! and have a mortgage! Could it be done?" Yes, it could, and would. If others had mastered these problems, could not the women of Wilmington? The club membership was now upwards of two hundred, and scores more were knocking at the door. The year's outline for study classes and lectures offered great attractions.

The third anniversary was one of great significance, and perhaps defined our standard more clearly than any previous effort. Extending hospitality to all organizations under the guardianship of women, the response was full and cordial, all reporting most interestingly in behalf of their respective work.



DEVELOPMENT

"'Tis thus we go
Through rain and snow"

The guests on this occasion were Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, president Federation of Women's Clubs; Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, Mrs. M. E. Mumford, Mrs. A. W. Longstreth, Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, and others, who crowned the day, not only with their presence, but with their inspiring messages of hope and encouragement.

The absorbing question of the winter, however, was a "club house," and on February 10th, a Building Committee having previously been appointed, Mrs. S. S. Smyth reported in its behalf a "prospectus." The capital stock was placed at \$30,000, and was divided into 6,000 shares of \$5 each. A by-law was passed requiring the purchase of at least one share of stock by every member, and to new members such purchase stood in lieu of entrance fee. This important measure secured deeper interest and a more united strength for the building project. By March 24th plans had developed and interest become enthusiasm. Ten thousand dollars had been subscribed, and the Site Committee instructed to purchase a choice lot on Delaware Avenue, with a depth of 150 and frontage of 57 feet, for \$5,130.

During the winter the Educational Committee made strenuous efforts to introduce cooking in the public school system. This was adopted in one school where it has since been continued under good management.



FOUNDING OF BUILDING.

The Building Committee had engaged Mrs. M. P. Nichols, of Philadelphia, the Architect of New Century Club house, as the designer of the club house in Wilmington, and plans for a Colonial building had been accepted. This to



NEW CENTURY CLUB, WILMINGTON, DEL.

include, on the first floor, a well equipped drawing room, seating 600, suitable for receptions, lectures, musicales, dramatic performances, and the like. On either side of the main entrance a café and pharmacy, the rentals from which would insure an income to the club. On the second floor, large double parlors were so arranged as to serve a variety of purposes, both for club and rental. On the third

floor were ladies' and gentlemen's dressing rooms, well appointed, and the basement was complete with kitchen, elevator, and other appliances. The

house was to be heated by steam and lighted by electricity; the exterior walls pebble dashed in Colonial yellow, and the woodwork painted in white.

About July 1, 1892, the ground was broken; on October 12 the cornerstone ceremonies, which were interesting and impressive, were held.

On January 31, 1893, a few days past the fourth anniversary, the beautiful "club house" was completed. As the love of home is deeply rooted in the heart of every woman, surely when four hundred women's hearts were "beat-



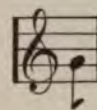
NEW CENTURY CLUB PARLOR, WILMINGTON, DEL.

ing as one" in the anticipation of club-house-keeping, it may justly be claimed as the day of days in the annals of history.

Honored guests came from distant clubs to join in the festivities. The artistically decorated drawing-room, filled with happy and devoted women, presented a most pleasing spectacle. The dedication ceremonies were opened at three o'clock by a fitting greeting from the president, Mrs. A. W. Miller, which was followed by cordial messages of congratulation and good will from Mrs. Mumford, Mrs. Croly, Mrs. Lozier, Mrs. H. H. Backus, and others. A poem written for the occasion was contributed by Mrs. S. M. Spaulding.

In the evening a handsome reception was tendered our resident guests, and our gentlemen friends, many of whom had proved staunch and helpful and rejoiced in the achievements of the women. Such is the story of the

building itself, though during those absorbing days other important lines received unabated attention. In the spring we were happy in assisting to found a club in our neighboring city of Chester, and our own club classes and committees continued their faithful efforts.



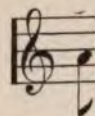
GROWTH.

As the spacious home offered enlarged opportunities for extending the scope of work, the year was one of fresh impulses and rich fulfilment. This was illustrated by two members, Mrs. S. S. Smyth and Miss Emma Worrell, seated at "tea," and, while discussing the abundance of good things, there being drawn from an overflowing basket parcel after parcel, carefully tied up and labelled after the various club departments.



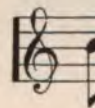
GROWTH OF COMMITTEE WORK

The year's record was, however, very important. Through the zeal of Miss M. S. Hilles, chairman of the Philanthropy Committee, in coöperation with Mrs. L. C. Marks, of the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Delaware Industrial School for Girls was founded. This was incorporated by legislative enactment, which body appropriates \$1,000 annually towards its support. Through the same committee an assistant police matron was secured for the city police station.



ADVANCEMENT.

This was illustrated by a representative of each club committee reporting on the advancement of its representative lines. From the Philanthropic Committee came messages of hope from the Girls' Industrial School, twenty-two young women having already received friendly shelter and Christian influences in the home. From the Educational Committee came news of the progress of manual training in the public schools. From the Class Committee came announcement that three new classes—Conversation, Mothers' Kindergarten, and Dressmaking—had been formed, in addition to those already existing. From the Lecture Committee a report of lectures for the winter's course. During the winter the club dues were raised to five dollars, and still remain at that point.



BOUNTIFUL.

Mrs. Frances S. Garrett was elected president May 18, 1895. The year had been a prosperous one, and the season showed important changes in the management of the club. Heretofore it had existed as one body, divided into two active departments—the Executive Committee, who took charge of literary, educational, and philanthropic work, and the Board of Directors, who were the custodians of the property. Both

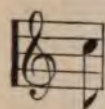


STAGE—NEW CENTURY CLUB DRAWING-ROOM, WILMINGTON, DEL.

bodies were united under one head—the president ; but the accumulation of business compelled division of responsibility. Thus the New Century Club Corporation came into existence.

The club now numbered 500 women, all of whom had become stockholders. In May, 1895, Miss R. J. Warner was elected the first president of the Corporation.

In the early spring a committee from the club visited Kennett Square, Pa., and there planted the club seed, which, even in its tender years, bore good fruit.



COMBINATION.

This scene disclosed a meeting of the Board of Directors of the corporation and the Executive Committee of the club. Its purpose was to demonstrate to members and friends by mock parliamentary tactics how these two honorable bodies discuss vital questions of mutual interest and importance. These joint sessions actually occur at stated intervals, and have proved of great value, as they afford an opportunity to keep in touch with each other, and to obtain a fuller acquaintance of each other's wishes and needs.

From the pen of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. T. Betts, is obtained the following :

"The New Century Club has made no pause in its onward progress, and as a result of the development of character, the strength of purpose, and the subordination of the individual to the good of all, that have made possible this steady going forward, the club has learned to know itself and to justly estimate its powers. To have gained this bit of wisdom is to have extracted the kernel from the nut, as with full knowledge of its capabilities there can be no wasted or misdirected energy, and its efforts can be devoted to those things that work for greater usefulness and better conditions."



BEGINNING THE LIBRARY

In October a club library was founded, at which time interesting and appropriate exercises were held.

Under the leadership of Mrs. M. S. Berlin, chairman of the current events class, two special entertainments were arranged in the unique form of a magazine number called "The Colonial." The first, given during the week of February 22d, was so successful in its picture, song, and

story that the committee was persuaded to repeat the performance.

A new number was prepared for Easter, which won laurels for the editor-in-chief and her able staff. The cover of the book represented a group of Easter lilies, hand painted by a member—Mrs. M. H. Kent. Such cover served as a full-sized door, and as it opened, the contents were given from life in charming "self-reading" fashion.

The choral class of sixty members—Mrs. R. M. G. Vandegrift, chairman—gave a delightful rendition of an excellent programme one afternoon. The physical culture class gave an open class exercise to the club members, and thus demonstrated the methods and results of their training. The Philanthropy Committee made a protest to the City Council against immoral plays being produced at places of amusement, and (in coöperation with the Women's Christian Temperance Union and the Law and Order Society) succeeded in securing the passage of an ordinance to suppress objectionable bill posters, and also recommended to the Grand Jury separate accommodations for the prisoners awaiting trial at the court-house.

The Educational Committee, under the direction of Mrs. Mary S. Howland, chairman, made efforts in behalf of the establishment of a State Normal School. An encouraging step taken towards this end by the city Board of Education was the employment of additional assistance in the training school for teachers. Many visits were paid to the Board of Education during the year in behalf of compulsory education for the city.

The committee arranged a novel entertainment for "College Day," Jan-

uary 2d, when exercises characteristic and typical of college life were greatly enjoyed. The chairman says: "It would be hard to find a prettier scene than 'our' drawing-room decorated with gay college colors, monograms, and emblems. About forty representatives from the women's colleges, notably Vassar, Bryn Mawr, Swarthmore, Smith, Wellesley, and Oxford, marched in the room carrying their college flags and streamers, while the members welcomed them to the measures of the club song. Clever papers were read upon the different phases of college life, interspersed with bright college songs." A burlesque of the noted events of the past year followed, thus illustrating the serious and the humorous side of college life. It is pleasant to record many delightful visits made to the public schools, where a hearty welcome always awaits the members of the New Century Club. An interesting episode was the presentation to the club of a handsome set of brass andirons and fender for the club parlor fireplace, made by the High School pupils. This graceful compliment to the club was warmly appreciated, and duly reciprocated when, later in the season, it presented a fine plaster cast of a section of the frieze in the "Parthenon" to the High School.

At the annual meeting of stockholders in May, 1897, the statement of our treasurer, Mrs. Emma L. Weldin, elicited warm praise and commendation. It should be remembered that the building was started on the threshold of a national business depression, hence the club felt more or less the universal financial condition. The cost of building, ground, and furnishing was about \$38,000. As less than \$20,000 had been subscribed at the founding, a mortgage was given for \$16,000, and a floating debt held of \$2,000. Within two years of the completion of the building, the debt of \$2,000 was cancelled, and additional land purchased at a cost of \$1,000. During the past year the mortgage has been reduced, \$600 expended in improvements and repairs, and there is a balance of upwards of \$600 in the treasury.

So much pleasure and profit have grown out of our enterprise that it is hoped other clubs will emulate the example. As an aid to such aspirations, the Board of Directors have issued a manual which contains full information of the business scheme, with the floor drawings and plans of the building. Any club desiring to secure the same can communicate with the secretary of the directors, Mrs. Edith N. T. Thomas, 1311 West Thirteenth Street, Wilmington, Del.

On May 19, 1897, "installation ceremonies" were held, for it was a sincere pleasure to welcome again to the presidential chair of the club Miss Askew Mather, and to the presidency of the corporation Mrs. E. P. Warner.

The New Century Club, of Newark, Del., was founded in 1895, with a limited membership of twenty-five, and has become an active force in that place. Its object, "to stimulate the members to continuous and thoughtful

study," is admirably carried out. It holds parlor meetings, and its programmes are well arranged by a club committee. It has also educational and club extension committees, both of which were designed to coöperate with similar committees in the New Century Club of Wilmington. Its first elected president was Miss F. H. Hurd. The present incumbent is Mrs. L. Irving Handy.

On July 1, 1897, a committee from the New Century Club of Wilmington visited Dover, the State capital, where a "Current Events" club was organized.

This extension of club fellowship throughout our little State gives promise of larger activity and finer achievements.

EMALEA P. WARNER, *Historian*.

DELAWARE STATE FEDERATION

Delaware became a federated State on the 19th of January, 1898, under the auspices of the New Century Club of Wilmington. The day was the ninth anniversary of the club, and the convention was called in the beautiful auditorium of the new club building. Miss Anne Askew Mather, the beloved and reelected president, welcomed the delegates, and was followed by Mrs. Emalea P. Warner, the devoted worker and an ex-president, who greeted the clubs and explained the purpose of the convention.

The president of the Dover Century Club, Mrs. B. Watson, responded on behalf of the delegates. Brief reports and congratulations were given by the representatives of the local clubs, followed by an address from Mrs. T. J. Craven, of Salem, N. J., upon "What State Federation does for the Individual Club, and What the Individual Club does for the State Federation."

The State Federation was then duly organized, and an adjournment made to a luncheon served in the parlors of the New Century Club house.

In the afternoon Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, vice-president of the General Federation, gave an address on "The Value of Federated Work." The election resulted in the choice of president, Mrs. E. P. Warner; vice-president, Mrs. L. I. Handy; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. Biggs; recording secretary, Mrs. F. Hurd; treasurer, Mrs. H. H. Richardson; auditor, Miss F. B. Stevenson.

The clubs forming the charter membership were the New Century Club of Wilmington, New Century Club of Newark, Century Club of Dover, Shakespeare Club of Dover, Avon Club of Felton, Tuesday Night Club of Bridgeville, and the New Century Club of Georgetown. The whole membership of the seven federated clubs is about eight hundred and fifty women.

The object, as expressed in the constitution, is "to bring the women's clubs of Delaware into communication for mutual helpfulness, and to promote the highest interests of the State."

The organization of the clubs in Delaware is the union of a delightful family group. The "New Century" of Wilmington, in the nine years of its existence, has become a power throughout the State. Its growth has been marked by a broad and cordial spirit of helpfulness, and a loyalty and steadfastness that successfully accomplish whatever it undertakes.

District of Columbia

The Woman's National Press Association was first organized in 1882, through the efforts of Mrs. M. D. Lincoln (Bessie Beech), Mrs. Emily Thornton Charles, Mrs. Rose Braendle, and Mrs. Nettie Sanford.

The first officers elected were: Mrs. E. E. Briggs ("Olivia"), president; Mrs. Braendle, vice-president; Mrs. Lincoln, secretary; and Mrs. Sanford, treasurer. In 1884 a reorganization took place, Mrs. Briggs still remaining the presiding officer. Eighteen months afterwards she resigned, leaving the chair to the vice-president, Mrs. Ruth C. Denison. At the annual meeting of that year Mrs. Lincoln was elected president, and held the office for eight years, during which time the membership doubled and regular fortnightly meetings were held.

Mrs. Lincoln was succeeded in 1892 by Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, who filled the office for three years. During this time the membership was greatly increased, and the national character of the organization established by the union of several auxiliaries.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Lockwood, who was one of the lady managers of the World's Columbian Exposition, the exhibit of the Woman's National Press Association won a medal, and each contributor a diploma.

In 1895 Mrs. H. B. Sperry was elected to the first office and reelected in 1896.

The association is a member of the International League of Press Clubs, and sends delegates to its annual meetings. It also continues its membership in the General Federation.

Among its members are Mrs. Lippincott ("Grace Greenwood"), Miss Mary F. Foster, Mrs. E. M. S. Marble, Mrs. Clara B. Colby, Mrs. E. D. E. N. Southworth, Mrs. Olive Logan, and Miss Clara Barton.

The association has sustained for years a Publication Bureau, and issued many works of interest, notably in the Potomac series.

The president (1897) is Mrs. E. S. Cromwell; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. H. Haeth; treasurer, Mrs. M. S. Gist; past president, Mrs. H. B. Sperry.

In December, 1894, the Woman's National Press Association issued the call for the formation of a federated organization in the District of Columbia,

and the first meeting was held in its rooms and the officers chosen from its members. Its roll-call includes nearly one hundred resident members.

Women's Anthropological Society.—On June 8, 1885, ten women of Washington met to form a scientific society. The idea was a novel one and hazardous, in that only one of the participants had ever done scientific work, viz., Mrs. T. E. Stevenson. At the time of organization the objects of the society were stated to be: "First, to open to women new fields for systematic investigation; second, to invite their coöperation in the development of the science of anthropology." The present constitution declares that "The object of this society shall be to promote anthropology, by encouraging its study and facilitating the interchange of thought among those interested in anthropologic research, and by arranging and preserving systematically all information relating to it, and also by holding regular meetings for its discussion."

Mrs. Stevenson, the founder, became the first president, and remained the presiding officer for three and a half years. To her must be credited the success which attended the society from the first, and which laid its foundations in the respect of the community. Her principal supporter at first was Miss Sarah A. Scull, then teacher of ancient history and mythology in Mrs. Somers' school for girls, and the society's corresponding secretary. The other officers selected at the preliminary June meeting were Mrs. Emma Louise Hitchcock for recording secretary, and Mrs. Mary Parke Foster for treasurer. A constitution was drafted and adopted at the same meeting, and the society then adjourned until November 28, 1885. By-laws were adopted on January 9, 1886. At the first annual meeting, held January 30th of the same year, the constitution and by-laws were amended, and additions were made to the Board of Directors in accordance with the code. These were the two vice-presidents, Mrs. Mary E. James and Mrs. Lida Nordhoff, and six directors, Miss Alice C. Fletcher, Mrs. Jean M. Lander, Mrs. Emma Hammond Ward, Mrs. Mary Olmsted Clarke, Dr. Clara Bliss Hinds, and Mrs. Cornelia E. McDonald.

The members of the Women's Anthropological Society of America are grouped in three classes—honorary, corresponding, and active. The last includes a sub-class of absent members who are temporarily inactive. As



HANNAH B. SPERRY,
Past President Woman's National Press
Association, Washington, D. C.

originally organized the society contained one honorary member (Miss Rose Elizabeth Cleveland) and twenty-one active members, of whom five were not residents of Washington. The policy of the society has always been to maintain a high standard of membership, one result of which is a practical limitation in numbers. The formalities surrounding the admission of new members are such that about a month elapses before a proposed name can be finally enrolled. At the same time, any thinking, intelligent woman, likely to take practical interest in the work, is gladly welcomed to the ranks.

The second president of the society was Mrs. Sybil Augusta Carter, and the third, Miss Alice Fletcher, who has remained its presiding officer.

Its earliest published work was upon "Child Growth," by Dr. Clara Bliss Hinds (1886). It also published a pamphlet (1888) by Prof. Otis T. Mason on "What is Anthropology?"

Besides holding special meetings, there were lectures by Mr. A. R. Wallace and Mr. J. H. Smythe.

A large number of papers are ethnographic in character, as are the two presidential addresses of Mrs. Stevenson: "The Religious Life of the Zuñi Child," delivered in 1886 and published in the fifth annual report of the Bureau of Ethnology; and "The Thirteen Medicine Orders of the Zuñi," delivered in 1888 and printed in abstract in *Science*. Four other papers presented by Mrs. Stevenson appeared among the publications of the Bureau of Ethnology. Their subjects: (1) "The Moki Indian Snake-Dance"; (2) "Mission Indians," in which are described the cosmogony, the ceremony of purification upon arriving at puberty, and the baptismal ceremony of the San Luisanos Indians of Southern California; (3) "The Sand-Paintings of the Navajos"; (4) "Zuñi and the Zuñians." Some of these papers were illustrated by original drawings. Of a similar character were the four papers from Miss Alice C. Fletcher, an original member of the society. The first of these, "Omaha Child Life," appeared in part in the *Journal of American Folk-Lore*. The second, "The Supernatural among the Omaha Tribe of Indians," was afterwards published in Volume I., No. 3, of the Proceedings of the American Society for Psychical Research. The third paper was on "Winter Life among the Winnebago Indians," and the fourth on "The Heathuska Society of the Omaha and Ponka Indians and Indian Music"—the last a publication of the Peabody Museum of American Archæology and Ethnology of Harvard University.

"Legends and Historical Sketches of the Iroquois Indians" (Washington, 1887) was the title of a privately printed pamphlet by Mrs. Laura M. Scofield, containing material previously presented to the society in two papers. Two valuable communications were given by corresponding members, viz., "Reminiscences of Life among the Iroquois Indians in the Province

of Quebec," by Mrs. Erminnie A. Smith, of New York, and "The Sioux Indians," by Miss Mary C. Collins, of Dakota.

In 1889 there was a movement toward the formation of a library. A number of important works had been presented to the society and, through the courtesy of Major J. W. Powell, placed in the library of the Bureau of Ethnology. This nucleus has now grown into one of the finest reference libraries owned by any society in this country, and is, of course, a great help in its continued work.

The honorary members of the Women's Anthropological Society are: Miss Rose Elizabeth Cleveland, New York; Madame Dieulafoy, Le Louvre, Paris, France; Mrs. Mary Hemenway, Milton, Mass.; Miss Maria Mitchell,* Lynn, Mass.; Madame Sophie Schliemann, Athens, Greece.

Pro-Re-Nata was organized March 13, 1889, for free discussion and the study of parliamentary law, not only in regard to methods, but as bearing upon the rights of women and children, and such legislation as is necessary to the public welfare.

The founder, and president for many years, was Mrs. Lucia Eames Blount, a member of the Executive Committee of three in the General Federation, and also of the Board of Directors in the same body.

Pro-Re-Nata joined the General Federation in March, 1891, and the Federation of the District of Columbia at its inception.

For the purpose of studying the proper method of introducing bills into Congress, Pro-Re-Nata practically resolved itself into a mock Congress for a season, during which time the following bills were introduced, referred to the proper committees, reported, and acted upon: A bill to grant suffrage to women in the District of Columbia; a bill to secure women on jury; a bill to protect the English sparrow; a bill to prohibit free wool; a bill to restrict immigration; a bill to prohibit public expectoration; a bill to prohibit compulsory vaccination; a bill to prohibit the use of female figures in front of tobacco stores.

Among the subjects of its papers and discussions have been: "Principles of Law which Women Ought to Know: 1, Personal Rights; 2, Rights of



MRS. LUCIA EAMES BLOUNT,
Founder of Pro-Re-Nata and Member of the
Executive Committee of the General Federa-
tion of Women's Clubs

* Deceased.

Ownership; 3. Laws of Contracts; 4. Essentials of Deeds, Bonds, Wills, and Executors—Mortgages; "A Cure for 'Tramps,'" "National Help for the Poor," "Penal Transportation as a Social Remedy," "The Single Tax," "Should Hawaii be Annexed to the United States," "Has a Knowledge of the Germ Theory Benefited People?" "Taxation of Church Property," "The Eastern Question as it Relates to the Atrocities in Armenia," "How Shall We best Train Our Future Citizens?" "Importance of the Study of United States History," "The Moral, Educational, and Sociological Necessity for Good Roads," "The Charities of Washington—What Are Women Doing in the Field, and What Leaving Undone?" "Fashionable Mourning," "Capital Punishment," "Reforms Needed in Our Diplomatic Service," "Shall the Office of Public Architect be Abolished?" "The Right of the District of Columbia to the Franchise."

In 1895 Mrs. Blount declined reelection, and the choice fell upon Mrs. Emily B. Coues, who is one of the Committee of Reception in the District federation, and a cousin of Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin.

The meetings of Pro-Re-Nata are fortnightly, and its annual meeting a dinner to which guests are invited.

Its active membership is twenty-four; associate, two.

The Business Woman's Club is the pioneer club of its kind in this country, and was organized November 7, 1893, with five members, comprising a doctor, lawyer, compositor, real estate agent, and professional manicure. To these have since been added members employed as merchants, bookkeepers, milliners, reporters, dress-makers, china decorators, school teachers, teachers of physical culture, languages, music and elocution, stenographers, conveyancers, clerks in stores, editors, photographers, special pension examiners, engrossers, typewriters, dentists, magazine writers, and ladies holding responsible positions in the government service requiring special training and ability.

The club motto is St. Augustine's beautiful sentiment: "In good things, brevity; in small things, liberty; in all things, charity"; and members subscribe to the following pledge:

"Holding my membership in the Business Woman's Club as something sacred and worthy of unfailing loyalty, I will, in my association with the club and my fellow members, be generous of thought, speech, and action; and will work for its prosperity, further the interests of its members, and loyally guard its reputation as long as I am a member."

The club colors are scarlet and white, emblematic of strength and purity; the badge is a knot of ribbon in these colors, and the club flower is the carnation, red and white.



MRS. CLARA BLISS FINLEY,
Organizer Business Woman's Club,
Washington, D. C.

The object of the club, as stated in the constitution, is to bring together socially, women who are or have been self-supporting, with a view to promoting friendly relations, and to provide suitable accommodations for this purpose.

The members are of five classes—honorary, life, active, non-resident, and associate; and the officers are president, vice-president, treasurer, and recording and corresponding secretaries. These, with six additional members, form the Board of Governors, who conduct and transact all the business and financial affairs of the club.

The officers and Board of Governors are elected annually, from the active members, and no member is eligible to the office of president for more than two consecutive terms.

The elective members of the board are chosen for two years, and are divided into two classes of three members each, one class retiring at the end of every year.

The club holds social meetings on the first and third Friday evenings of the month, and the board meets the second Friday evening of each month for the transaction of current business, and voting upon names of candidates for membership. Application for membership must be signed by three members, and after being posted for thirty days in the club rooms, is passed upon by the Elections Committee, and then submitted to Board of Governors for final action.

On certain occasions the club has "Gentlemen's Evenings," which have always been highly enjoyed by the gentlemen favored with invitations. In addition to the social evenings, there is a reading class, which, since it was inaugurated, November 29, 1894, has met every Tuesday afternoon and has been the source of much enjoyment and instruction. The exercises have been varied, consisting sometimes of original papers and sometimes of the reading of short magazine sketches, poems, etc.



MISS FRANCES B. JOHNSTON,
Representative Member Business
Woman's Club, Washington, D. C.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

Each member has a pass key to the club rooms, which are centrally located, and can be used during the day as a reading room, a meeting place, or for the convenience of members in other ways.

The present officers (1897) are: President, Miss Amy Clement Leavitt; vice-president, Miss Mary Maude McKinstry; treasurer, Miss Lida C. Tulloch; recording secretary, Miss Annie E. Trumbull; corresponding secretary, Miss Frances B. Johnston.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FEDERATION

The first call for a federation of women's clubs in the District of Columbia was sent out by the National Woman's Press Association in December, 1894.

This call stated among the objects to be effected by such an organization, "The advancement of the interests of the Girls' Reform School; the better care and protection of women prisoners, there then being but one prison for men and women; the promotion of woman's interests in medical and law schools and other institutions of learning; the erection of a building devoted to the use of women's organizations."

Several of the different societies in the city of Washington met at the Press Club rooms in response to this call, and a temporary organization was effected.

In January, 1895, a permanent organization was founded by the election of officers and the adoption of constitution and by-laws. The constitution stated as the object, desire "to secure more thorough acquaintance and, in case of need, united action among the women's clubs of the District. The work shall be general, not sectarian or partisan, or devoted exclusively to one line of pursuit, but hospitable to all thought affecting human welfare."

Four organizations united to form the nucleus of the District Federation—the Woman's National Press Association, Pro-Re-Nata, the Loyal Legion of Women, and the Woman's Suffrage Association.

The election resulted in the choice of the following officers: President, Mrs. Ella M. S. Marble; first vice-president, Mrs. L. A. Crandall; second vice-president, Mrs. M. P. Davis; secretary, Miss Mary F. Foster; treasurer, Mrs. Hannah B. Sperry; auditor, Mrs. Emily B. Coues. These, with nine members drawn one from each of the federated clubs, constituted a Board of Directors. At the following meeting the Woman's Relief Corps, Auxiliary to the Department of the Potomac, came into the organization, and at the next the District Woman's Christian Temperance Union, the Loyal Women of American Liberty, the Washington Kindergarten Association, and the Excelsior Literary Club. These five societies brought the list up

to nine, representing an individual membership of upwards of two thousand women.

The first annual meeting was called for April 10th and a committee appointed to arrange the programme, which, it was recommended, should be of a general character.

The reports of officers and committees were followed by an election of officers, Dr. E. M. S. Marble positively declining a renomination. The election resulted in the following unanimous choice: President, Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, of Pro-Re-Nata; vice-president, Mrs. J. L. Tanner; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary S. Gist; recording secretary, Mrs. Anna B. Hamilton; treasurer, Mrs. L. L. McCreery; auditor, Mrs. J. L. Monroe.

One club, Wimodaughsis, having been added to the nine which had been made charter members to the federation, ten directors were elected, and the meeting adjourned for an evening session, for which a very attractive programme had been outlined. This consisted first of five-minute reports, presented in nearly every instance by the president of the club, and were of exceeding interest, outlining the work in the various fields occupied.

These reports were followed by a spirited paper by Mrs. Ellen S. Mussey, chairman of the Committee on Legislative Work, upon the bill and memorial presented to Congress by the federation, bearing upon the "legal status of women" in the District of Columbia.

A paper upon the "Benefits of Federation," by Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, was listened to with attention, and Mrs. Blount was subsequently invited to repeat it before several of the local clubs.

The evening closed with a brief address from the retiring president, who introduced her successor, Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, and the meeting adjourned to convene again in April, 1897.

The following summary of local organizations in the District of Columbia has been received from Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, chairman State correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and a practising lawyer in Washington:

The Legion of Loyal Women, which was first organized as Potomac Corps, in 1886, was reorganized and incorporated



MRS. E. S. MUSSEY,
Chairman State Correspondence,
District of Columbia

November, 1892, under its present name. It boasts among its members Miss Clara Barton, Mrs. John A. Logan, Mrs. M. L. Tanner, and Miss H. P. Dame, and I am proud to be a member myself. Its charitable work is conducted on broad lines and it has adopted the plan of giving relief by employment. It develops the woman individually as a parliamentarian, and works on the lines of literature and civics. Its influence is strongly felt in the community.

Wimodaughsis was organized to furnish educational advantages in practical, industrial, and educational work for women. It has in its classes several hundreds, and it has been, and still is, a means of assistance to young women of limited means and small social and educational opportunities. It has handsome rooms on New York Avenue, near the Treasury. Its most prominent workers are: Miss E. M. Gillett (lawyer), who has contributed of her means and her time generously to make the movement a success; Mrs. R. G. D. Havens, Mrs. J. Bradley, Mrs. A. M. Hamilton, all of whom have served at different times as president and in other capacities; Miss Mary Williams, Mrs. Josepha Houghton, Mrs. Helen Tindall, and Mrs. Ada Dickerson are also prominent workers. Dr. Carolina Winslow, now deceased, was one of the pioneers in this work, as well as in every good work in this District looking to the advancement of women.

Excelsior Literary Society was organized in 1892 for study and discussion of subjects previously announced. Its objects are purely educational and social. It is composed of over fifty of the most studious and thoughtful women of Washington, as shown by the carefully prepared and instructive papers read by the members at the weekly meetings held at the residences of members. In order to test the memory of the authors studied, the president sometimes employs the method of calling upon the members for impromptu quotations from any author she may name. President, Mrs. Mary L. Edson; secretary, Mrs. M. M. Metcalf.

The Science Club has for leader in the study of nature and its wonders, Mrs. Laura Talbot. One of its specialties is the providing an annual free course of lectures by experts in some particular branch of scientific work.

The club meets in the Columbian University Building, and is divided into sections. The section for the study of psychology has for its leader Miss A. Tolman Smith, the well-known writer on educational subjects; and she and her co-workers have given some very valuable papers to the public. Miss Ada G. Carman is a member of this section, and, although a young woman, her researches have been useful to experts and have received favorable mention. Miss Alice Fletcher, well known for her work among the Indians, has held the office of president for some years very acceptably. Among the members are Dr. Anita McGee, Mrs. Mendenhall, Mrs. Lander,

Miss Edith Wescott, Mrs. Romeyn Hitchcock, one of the originators of the Woman's Anthropological Society, who has contributed valuable papers upon China and Japan; and some fifty others.

The Ladies' Historical Society was organized by Mrs. Horatio King, and for many years met every Saturday morning during the winter months at her residence. She was its first and only president, and when her health would no longer permit her to preside, the organization disbanded. Old members never cease to regret that it is a thing of the past.

The District Federation of Women's Clubs was called by the National Woman's Press Association, and formed a temporary organization on December 8, 1894. In January, 1895, a constitution was adopted, and a permanent organization effected. Its first president was Dr. E. M. S. Marble; its second, Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood. It succeeded from the beginning in harmonizing, as well as interesting, ten leading societies.

In some of these organizations there are also men, as the Suffrage Association, but they are not represented actively in the District federation. The first work taken up was legislative, and had for its object the improvement of the laws of the District relating to property rights of married women and guardianship of minor children. A committee was appointed consisting of Ellen Spencer Mussey, Miss Emma M. Gillett, Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, Mrs. E. B. Coues, and Mrs. Belva Lockwood. They drafted a bill giving married women the right to their own property, free of any control of their husbands; the right to do business in their own names, and to generally act for themselves in property matters. It also equalized the parental rights of father and mother to guardianship of minor children. This bill was introduced early in January, 1896, and, with some modifications, passed both Senate and House, and became a law June 1, 1896. The battle was not won without many a hard fight, but the work was educational not only to the women who took part in it, but also to the people of the District, and the senators and congressmen who were enlisted in the cause of equality before the law.

This year the work of the District federation has been educational, and is directed toward providing a separate kindergarten system in the public schools. It is proposed to have the age of admission to the public schools lowered to four years, and provide a two years' course of kindergarten training for each child. It cannot be doubted that the District federation, which now numbers a membership of 3,000 bright women, inspired by the desire to benefit humanity, will accomplish what they desire.

Mrs. Lucia E. Blount, Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, Mrs. Carrie E. Kent, Mrs. Belva Lockwood, Mrs. Ellen Powell Thompson, Dr. E. M. S. Marble, Mrs. Jennie Monroe, Mrs. E. S. Cromwell, Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey, Miss

Mary Desha, are among the representative club women of to-day; Mrs. Ellen Spencer Mussey is State chairman of correspondence for the District of Columbia.

Mrs. Mussey, a leading lawyer as well as club-woman, is a daughter of the Ohio Western Reserve. She is the attorney for the National Red Cross, of which Miss Clara Barton is president. She served two terms as president of the Legion of Loyal Women, and is treasurer of the Advisory Committee who have erected a building in Washington for the First Colored Society of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborgian).

The Twentieth Century Club, of Washington, D. C., dates from April 2, 1891. Its membership was largely derived from All Souls' Church (Unitarian), and its object "the promotion of liberal thought and philanthropic work on a broad basis." Its meetings are monthly, and its work is divided into sections representing philanthropy, reform, education, and hospitality.

The philanthropic section took an active part in obtaining the appointment of women upon the Board of Directors of the Girl's Reform School, of which its then president, Mrs. Enoch Totten, was made chairman. Through its instrumentality kindergartens have been established in different parts of the city, and an earnest effort made to introduce kindergartens into the free public schools.

It has established a reading-room for men and boys, and a girls' sewing and cooking school.

At its monthly meetings the programmes consist of reports from the different sections, and a paper upon some topic previously suggested and assigned. The discussion of this is followed by a light lunch, which closes the session.

The work of this club has been continuous and successful in every direction in which its efforts have been employed.

The Academy of Forty was organized in 1895, with Mrs. R. G. D. Havens as its president. Its object is "the study and cultivation of the English language."

Its meetings are monthly, and are carried on by conversation upon some previously announced topic. The leader of the day is also a censor, who corrects mistakes in grammar or pronunciation, and suggests improvement in purity of language. It aims to develop the power of extemporaneous speaking and the charm of a ready wit. Its membership is naturally small and discriminating, as the main object could not otherwise be obtained.

Florida

THE curious adaptability of the woman's club life to varying needs and social environment was never better exemplified than in the State of Florida.

The natural resources of Florida made it the great winter resort of America. Its tropical climate, its luxuriant vegetation, its wealth of flowers, its springs, lakes, and rivers, all furnish the requisites for the development of ideal beauty and enjoyment of life.

But system, order, cleanliness, sanitation, and other conditions of health and comfort were absent. Here and there hotels existed, spacious and furnished with all modern requisites, so far as their immediate surroundings were concerned; but the conditions for simple, healthful, cleanly living in the village neighborhoods and along the river fronts were absent excepting as they were created by individual energy and industry.

The first coöperative effort for village improvement was started at Green Cove Springs, in 1887, by a group of women, many of whom belonged to the North, and were only resident in Florida during the winter months.

These ladies went to work vigorously to rescue the neighborhood from its disfiguring elemental conditions, and make it a fit setting for the fine natural features which had already rendered it an objective point for the tourist.

From the first the work assumed a dual character—that of bringing order and cleanliness out of dirt and disorder, and providing a social centre for the intelligent intercourse of women with one another.

In April, 1889, the society became an incorporated association, the object of which, as stated, was "to promote neatness and order in the city, and do whatever may tend to improve and beautify the town as a place of residence, and keep it in a healthy condition." The incorporators were Mary B. Yerkes, Annie Hanford, Emma V. Low, L. Dora Greer, Carrie F. Page, Minnie E. Crocker, E. G. G. Munsell, Ellen L. Borden, Alice M. Blain, Eliza A. Graves, Sara L. Tyler, and Mary E. Canova, and the corporate name was "The Ladies' Improvement Association of Green Cove Springs, Florida." Headquarters were established; and a communication sent to the *New Cycle*, 1893, invited inspection and described the work.

"Visitors to Green Cove Springs are cordially invited to visit the villa of the Ladies' Village Improvement Association on Magnolia Avenue. Everything about the villa and its grounds betokens the spirit and genius of the institution. Here are found cozy sitting-rooms, a library and reading-room; also a dining-room, where a sandwich and a cup of coffee are gratuitously served to visitors. Stationery is provided at the desk for the use of guests; also a mail-box, from which all letters are promptly conveyed to the post-office. A maid is in attendance to care for the comfort of visitors.

"The association employs a man, whose duty it is to go over the city daily, with wheelbarrow and tools, for the purpose of cleaning the streets of stray papers and trash of all sorts. This is buried out of sight or burned. A committee of one takes charge of this man for one week, laying out and inspecting his work for that time. Thus all the ladies take a personal interest in the work, and become, by this process, thoroughly posted as to the general cleanliness and sanitary condition of the city. The painted barrels of this association—with their quaint and funny mottoes—stand at the corners of streets and in front of stores, as constant receptacles of refuse which would otherwise be strewn about the streets. It is worth a visit to Green Cove Springs, if only to inspect the practical working of the association."

The motto is "Energy will do everything that can be done in this world."

The clubs, as originally formed, were nearly all village improvement societies, based on the Green Cove Spring model. The work was intensely practical, and so absorbing during the months which formed the club year that all the energies were concentrated upon it; and neither time nor money could be diverted from the object in view. Gradually, as the improved condition became an accomplished reality, other features were introduced, and clubs were formed with the literary and diversified characteristics of those existing at the North.

The most important of these later clubs is **The Palmetto**, of Daytona.

The population of Daytona is more than half Northern. Its club membership of fifty represents at least ten different States. It was organized in 1894 with the simple object of "mutual improvement" and a limited membership.

Instead of the civic spirit, it began with the intention of cultivating literary and musical features as pleasant exercise of gifts and means of companionship, and grew towards the wider and more comprehensive outlook and effort.

Daytona, in 1894, did not need the early work required at Green Cove Springs. Starke, Tarpon Springs, and other places had followed the lead

of Green Cove Springs, and established thriving village improvement societies. All the early elemental work had been done at Daytona, and the need was to establish a centre of intellectual and social life for the cultivated women who made it their winter home.

During the year, however, the interests of the Daytona Free Library appealed to the desire of the club to enlarge its work, and steps were taken to put it on a more substantial basis, as well as to add to its usefulness by increasing its size and capacity.

Subjects discussed during the year from December, 1896, to May, 1897, were: "Some Phases of Education," "Ethical Forces of the Universe," "Advancement of the South in the Past Twenty-five Years," "Women in Associations," "Shall we Enlarge our Club Work?" "Is the Woman's Club a Factor for Good in our Homes and the Community where we Reside?" and "Ought we to be Interested in Civic Affairs?"

The officers of the Palmetto Club are: Mrs. Mary Marsh Ruger, president; Mrs. C. S. Atwood, vice-president; Miss Amelia Potter, secretary; Mrs. Margaret S. Atwood, treasurer; and Miss Genevieve Robinson, State chairman of correspondence.

The Executive Committee consists of these officers, with the addition of Mrs. J. C. Weeks and Mrs. L. A. Robbins.

Mrs. Julia Higgins, of Toledo, Ohio, was the first president, but it is to Mrs. J. C. Weeks, of Joliet, Ill., that the club has been indebted for hospitality from the beginning. The home she has given it has been so delightful as to make it an important factor in its pleasant social life.

Mrs. Ruger, the present (1897) active president, was, previous to her marriage, Miss Mary Marsh, of Rockford, Ill., so that Illinois may be considered the "godmother" of the Palmetto Club, and largely responsible for the broad, vigorous character of its organization.

Another active member is Mrs. E. G. Harris, who has been most helpful in carrying on the work.

The insignia of the club is a palmetto leaf; the club colors, yellow and green; and the motto, "Why stay we on earth except to grow?"

Florida was federated in 1895 with five clubs: the Palmetto, Green Cove Springs, Orange City, Crescent City, Fairfield, and Tarpon Springs clubs.



BANNER OF PALMETTO CLUB, FLORIDA

Since its formation its chief activity has been in the direction of securing State legislation to prohibit trespassing by live stock.

The Crescent City and Fairfield clubs have erected public halls, which are not only useful to the community, but a source of income to the organizations.

The Starke Club has purchased and is improving a park. The Tarpon Springs Club has improved the park, driven a public well, lighted the streets by electricity, and planted more than one hundred trees.



MRS. MARY M. RUGER,
President of Palmetto Club,
Daytona



MRS. THESELDA A. HARRIS,
Representative Member Palmetto Club,
Daytona, Fla.

Five clubs—Green Cove Springs, San Mateo, Spring Park, the Avilah—have each established a public library. The Ormond Club owns its library building, and has the largest number of books, upwards of one thousand volumes.

The Indian River Club has a Local History Committee, whose work is to gather, complete, and preserve the history and traditions of the Indian River country.

Green Cove Springs, in addition to its other work, now appropriates a certain amount of money per month, and devotes a regular amount of care to the improvement of the cemetery of that village.

The money raised by all these clubs is through subscription fees, dues, and occasional lectures and entertainments.

Out of fifteen clubs, two admit men as honorary members, but they are not allowed to vote, and have no privileges, except that of paying money.

The constitution of the Florida State Federation, adopted February 1, 1895, states its object: "To bring the women's clubs into acquaintance and mutual helpfulness"; and the conditions of membership, to be "free from sectarian or political bias, and must express the spirit of progress on broad and human lines."

The officers are: President, Miss P. A. Borden, Green Cove Springs; vice-president, Mrs. E. S. Tebbets, Crescent City; second vice-president, Mrs. L. E. Wamboldt, Jacksonville; treasurer and corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. V. Low, Green Cove Springs; recording secretary, Mrs. S. L. Morse, Orange City; auditor, Mrs. S. B. Safford, Tarpon Springs.

Georgia

WOMAN'S CLUB MOVEMENT IN GEORGIA

THE work of women's clubs, as a movement, began in Georgia when the National Federation of Women's Clubs held its Council meeting in November, 1895, in the city of Atlanta, in the list of Women's Congresses of the Southern Exposition. There had been local clubs in Georgia previous to that time, notably, Elberton Sorosis, a club in a mountain town somewhat isolated, but which had become not only an influence, but a power in its community. Georgia Sorosis organized in 1892, as also the Press Club of Georgia, whose members are scattered and meetings annual. Here and there small reading circles or study classes had been formed without organization, but with a desire for the mental stimulus that came from such companionship. The eldest of these is the History Class of Atlanta, which has done much good reading and study in a quiet way.

The meeting of the Council of the General Federation attracted the attention of an influential body of women, among them Mrs. W. D. Lowe, who called a meeting at her home during the sessions of the Council, and then and there laid the foundations, not only of the Woman's Club of Atlanta, but of the State federation, which was formed within the first year of the existence of the club.

The courage, the activity, and the modern methods of the Atlanta Woman's Club crystallized into a unit the various elements which had heretofore been isolated or formless, and brought them into communication with each other.

The "call" was sent out from the Atlanta Woman's Club for a convention to meet in Atlanta, October 28th and 29th, to organize such club forces as existed into a federated body, and thus create a nucleus for State work. In her address of welcome the president of the Atlanta Woman's Club, Mrs. Lowe, stated "that in discussing the matter with the Federation Committee, it was not expected that more than three or four clubs could be brought together." The presence of delegates and representatives from a round dozen representative organizations, and others that were national and sent fraternal delegates, served as stimulus and encouragement to the projectors of the

enterprise, and the presence of Mrs. Henrotin, the president of the General Federation, was a further augury of success.

The response on behalf of the delegates was made by Mrs. A. O. Harper, of Georgia Sorosis, the oldest federated club in Georgia. Mrs. J. K. Ottley, of the Atlanta Woman's Club, was made chairman of the convention, and Mrs. E. S. Sparks, of Rome, secretary.

The Committee on Credentials consisted of Mrs. Hamilton Yancey, of Rome; Mrs. Brumby, of Cartersville, and Mrs. William King, of Atlanta.

Miss Rosa Woodbury, the chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation, made the motion that a State federation be formed. This was unanimously adopted, and a committee appointed to draft a constitution and by-laws, consisting of Mrs. Heard, of Elberton; Miss Rosa Woodbury, of Athens; Mrs. W. B. Lowe, of Atlanta; Mrs. Lindsay Johnson, of Rome, and Mrs. Cochrane, of Barnesville.

Reports from local clubs were made from the Woman's Club of Rome; from the Reviewers', of Atlanta; from the Lesché Club, of Dalton; from the Cherokee Club, of Cartersville; the Augusta Woman's Club, the Woman's Club of Macon, the Saturday Morning Club, and the Nineteenth Century Class.

The representative of the Free Kindergarten Association made a stirring address, which laid the foundation for future work.

The evening session was held in the Unitarian church, where a highly interested audience gathered to listen to a talk by Mrs. Henrotin on the "Benefit of Federation," and two papers by Mrs. A. O. Harper, of Elberton, and Mrs. J. K. Ottley.

Mrs. Harper's subject was "Women's Club Life in Georgia," and Mrs. Ottley's "University Extension."

On October 29th the Credentials Committee reported twenty clubs as existent in Georgia.

By the close of the first year seventeen were reported as forming the membership of the Georgia State Federation. These were: Woman's Club, History Class, the Reviewers' Club, Atlanta; Alumnae Association of Shorter College, Rome; Current Topics Club, Macon; Cherokee Club, Cartersville; Lesché



MRS. W. B. LOWE,
President State Federation, Georgia



MRS. R. E. PARK,
Chairman Education Committee,
Macon, Ga.

Club, Dalton; Floricultural Club, Covington; Georgia Sorosis, Elberton; the Rome Woman's Club, Rome; Semi-Colon Club, Social Circle, Shakespearean Club, Barnesville; Students' Club, Columbus; Philomathic Club, Augusta; Woman's Press Club, Georgia.

The election resulted in the choice of: President Georgia Federation, Mrs. W. B. Lowe; vice-president, Mrs. J. L. Johnson; recording secretary, Mrs. Heard, Elberton; corresponding secretary, Miss Rosa Woodberry, Athens; treasurer, Mrs. A. S. Cochrane, Barnesville; auditor, Mrs. John Aiken, Cartersville; directors, Mrs. R. E. Park, Macon; Miss Ruth Van Buren, Augusta; Miss Alice Moore, Dalton.

Six standing committees were formed: the first, upon education, Mrs. R. E. Park, of Macon, chairman; literature, Mrs. H. Reed, Atlanta; libraries, Mrs. P. S. Heard; reform, Mrs. N. P. Black; press, Mrs. Beulah Mosely, Rome; programme, Mrs. John King Ottley, Atlanta.

A report of the State chairman closed as follows: "It is a great work these ambitious women of the federation have before them—the advancement of education, establishment of libraries, promotion of morality, bettering of civic conditions, and individual culture. Its organization has inspired the formation of clubs for work and study in many parts of the State. It has caused the establishment of night schools and library associations. Its Educational Committee has already begun the investigation of the public school problem, and is planning to increase and broaden educational work. The influence of the federation has already been felt in legislative halls. Realizing the importance of having woman's experience and practical knowledge of educational work on the Board of Education, the federation has been instrumental in having a bill reported favorably to make women eligible to this office. The growth of the federation has been largely due to the State press. One might as easily conceive of sound travelling without a medium, or an electric current conveyed without a conductor, as the success of any movement for the public good without such a medium.

"What a thousand women are urging and studying and achieving, the press repeats to hundreds of thousands, and thus makes in very truth the cause of one the cause of humanity."

A circular letter, addressed to each club by the president, said, in regard to the objects of the federation: "The advancement of education, the line

of study adopted, is another leading object of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs. Its aim is to study the public school problem and investigate its methods. The federation will work for a longer term of free tuition, the improvement of school property, and will give special attention to the question of text-books. Its Educational Committee includes far-seeing, cultivated women, who will actively push the work. This committee urgently requests that each club in each town appoint a sub-committee to aid in carrying out the plans proposed and thus fully feel and strive to meet the needs of every section.

"The federation is interested in the establishment of circulating libraries in every town and hamlet in Georgia. The Library Committee will bend every energy toward giving the people an opportunity of obtaining entertaining and instructive reading, and endeavor to maintain a high standard.

"The Reciprocity Committee facilitates the exchange of papers, constitutions, suggestions, and plans, thus keeping each club in touch with all others. The federation urges the formation of clubs—literary, artistic, scientific, civic, and humanitarian—in every town and district in Georgia, and urges those interested to communicate with it.

"A cordial invitation is extended to all clubs in Georgia that come within its scope to enter the federation and aid in its work for the upbuilding of the State and promoting the highest welfare of its people."

An admirable outline of study was subsequently issued by the Educational Committee, and distributed in pamphlet form among the clubs. The vital question was said to be, "How to foster free kindergartens until they are incorporated with the public school system." It recommended the clubs to study "the progress of kindergarten work in the United States; encourage the establishment of free kindergartens, with the object of incorporating the system in the public school system; study the status of common schools of Georgia; the status of high schools of Georgia cities; consider the hiatus in the State system, which has feet—in the common school system—and a head—in the university—but no body; study the condition of the State University, including its tributary schools; study the relation of schools to national morality; the relation of schools to citizenship; the status of private schools and sectarian colleges in the State."

The following June the federated women met in a large body to celebrate



MRS. P. S. HEARD,
Chairman Library Committee,
Georgia State Federation

their first "field day" at Warm Springs. The meeting was informal, but brought out the fact that within the six months of its existence nearly twenty clubs had enlisted under the State banner; that in some of the smaller towns libraries had already been established, and the educational interests throughout the State received a decided impetus. The previous isolation and separation of women in classes were emphasized, and the woman's club credited with "changing the unnatural order of things, with levelling social lines and bringing the woman of wealth into human sympathy with the self-supporting woman." The meeting was largely social, but there were reports from all the standing committees, and a question box, which was fully utilized.

The Reform Committee, through its chairman, presented a plan for a State reformatory for youthful criminals as a desirable object to be accomplished, and promised aid in the free kindergarten movement.

The fine paper upon "Georgia Schools," read before the State Federation by Mrs. Enoch Calloway, of La Grange, had borne much fruit, reviving the interest in early schools and colleges which had been almost forgotten. It had become a source of pride that two academies for girls were founded in the State in 1833, and the Wesleyan Female College; incorporated in 1836, was found to be the second chartered college in the world which had a right to confer degrees upon women, Oberlin, Ohio, being the first.

In October the Georgia Federation was represented at Nashville through its State president, who was invited to read a paper upon "State Federation," and also by Mrs. John King Ottley, of Atlanta, who gave a paper upon "University Extension," as well as by its delegate, Mrs. C. S. Sparks, of Rome.

The Georgia club-women received an ovation socially at the Nashville Exposition, perhaps in recognition of the splendid hospitality which so many of them exercised on the occasion of their own exposition held in Atlanta in 1895.

The first annual convention of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs was held at Rome, Ga., on November 2d, 3d, and 4th, by invitation of the Rome Woman's Club.

"Wisdom, justice,

and moderation."

November 2d was occupied by a visit to the Rome Hospital and Free Kindergarten, which are under the management of the Rome Woman's Club, and a reception was given to the delegates and visiting members by the president of the Rome Woman's Club, Mrs. J. L. Johnson.

Seven local committees had the arrangements in charge, one of these forming a "Bureau of Information," and another a "Calendar Exchange and Exhibit."

The Superior Court room was placed at the disposal of the local committee for the meetings of the convention.

The usual addresses and reports were followed on Wednesday, November 3d, by the report of the Educational Committee, and a symposium on the "Educational Outlook in Georgia." Five phases of the subject were considered: "The Kindergarten," by Mrs. Nellie Peters Black; "Country School; Pupil, Patron, and Teacher," by Miss Julia A. Flisch; "City School Systems," by Mrs. Charles A. Read; "The University," by Mrs. Walter B. Hill; "Private Schools," by Mrs. Enoch Calloway.

The wide influence of the work of the Educational Committee was shown not only in the reports of local clubs, but more emphatically by the placing of the chairman on the State Board of Commissioners and upon the Educational Committee of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The report of the Library Committee, through its chairman, Mrs. Heard, showed gratifying activity in the work of forming free libraries in different parts of the State, and introduced an important paper upon the "Relation of the Library to the Educational Work of Georgia," by Mrs. W. H. Felton.

A general discussion upon "Travelling Libraries as the New Aid to Education" was led by Mrs. John Printup.

At the evening meeting of Wednesday a valuable paper on "Coöperation" was given by Miss L. G. Crozier; and a brief address by Mrs. G. B. Eager, president of the Alabama State Federation of Women's Clubs.

Thursday was given to the election of officers and reports from the Press Committee and Committees on Reform, Reciprocity, Household Economics, and Law.

The State chairman of correspondence also reported in regard to the State work. Regarding a State federation motto, emblem and colors, it was decided to adopt the coat-of-arms of the State of Georgia, with its motto: "Wisdom, justice, and moderation." The Cherokee rose was the emblem chosen. Colors, green and white.

All the officers of the Georgia federation were reelected for a second term, and the work of the standing committees was also left in the hands of the same efficient chairmen.

The *Rome Georgian*, edited by Mrs. Beulah Mosely, was adopted as the organ of the Georgia State Federation, and it was announced that federation reports would be made public through this medium, with Mrs. J. L. Johnson as the federation editor.

Mrs. Johnson is the president of the Rome Woman's Club, which received praise without stint for its hospitality and the perfection of the business arrangements.

The social success of the first annual meeting was a great factor in the

pleasure which it inspired. All the delegates and visiting club-women were entertained in their handsome homes. Mrs. Hamilton Yancey kept open house and entertained a party at dinner every evening. Colonel and Mrs. J. L. Johnson gave a brilliant reception; the service and decoration in the federation colors.

Shorter College opened its doors on the third evening, and closed the series of entertainments with a musicale, followed by a reception to the guests.

Report of the Educational Committee of the State Federation.—"It was a red-letter day in the history of education in Georgia when the State Federation of Women's Clubs chose the subject of education for its special study. To the casual observer it might have seemed an insignificant thing that a small body of women, scattered widely over the State, should have set themselves to the study of Georgia's educational system; but the thoughtful observer, remembering that these women were the leaders in their communities, capable, energetic, enthusiastic, eager to learn and to do, would have seen in their decision the beginning of an educational renaissance and reformation in Georgia.

" 'First know, then do,' was the advice of the able chairman of the Educational Committee, Mrs. R. E. Park, of Macon.

"As a body the State federation has labored for two things: the betterment of the public school system in Georgia and the admission of women to the university. Their efforts in the latter direction took the form of a bill presented to the present Legislature, and with the former object in view the several Educational Committees of the various clubs have striven to bring about a better understanding between the home and the school through the agencies of reading circles, mothers' clubs, and open meetings. The work has already received recognition from the highest authorities. The State School Commissioner, Hon. G. R. Glenn, in his report to the General Assembly, said: 'I call attention to this matter because I beg to commend to the Legislature the interest that the women are taking in the children and in the young people of Georgia.' And, again, in reference to the free kindergarten work, he says: 'These good women in Georgia may be laying the foundation for an educational reform that will make their names blessed long after they are dead and gone.'

"But, after all, the actual showing of the educational work of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, although it deserves the full meed of recognition that it has received, gives only a faint indication of the real significance of the movement. 'Things done that take the eye and have their price' are oftentimes the least worthy part of a work.

"Perhaps the one thing that is most worthy of praise in all this work of

the club-women is its unselfishness. The club-woman of Georgia is, as a rule, the woman of culture and leisure, but she thinks much of the other woman in her poverty, ignorance, and hard work, and gives freely of her money, intelligence, and time for the sake of the other woman and the other woman's child. If any selfish motive whatsoever enters into the work, if the club-women of Georgia have before them some ideal of self-development, they have accepted the paradox that we grow not by what we get but by what give, believing with Walt Whitman, 'that the gift is to the giver and comes back to him.'

"The result of our first year's labor has resulted in the formulation and presentation, by the Educational Committee, of two bills to the House of Representatives: one to multiply the offices in the educational field for women, and the other prays that women may be given equal educational privileges with men.
R. E. P."

The *Southern Educational Journal*, Atlanta, is the official organ of the educational department of the Georgia State Federation.

The **Nineteenth Century History Class of Atlanta** was formed first in 1885 as a Chautauqua Circle, and was so conducted for three years. After completing this work, a course of study in nineteenth century history was begun under the direction of Dr. Herbert B. Adams, of Johns Hopkins University. It embraced the political histories of Germany, France, Spain, Italy, Russia, England, and the Eastern question; and notwithstanding the magnitude of the task, and the amount of labor required, the course was satisfactorily completed, and the class received, through its president, the sincere congratulations, not only of Dr. Adams, but of Dr. Gilman, the president of Johns Hopkins University.

The class then took up a university extension course in political history, which occupied three years, and was completed in May, 1896. The next course was upon the anti-slavery controversy and the causes of the Civil War. The syllabi for this course were prepared by Dr. Woodburn, of the University of Indiana. The class began this course October, 1897, and is still pursuing it.

The Nineteenth Century History Class has had no formal club organization, but has been fortunate in having for its leaders such women as Mrs. Darwin Jones, Mrs. Albert Thornton. Mrs. James Jackson, and Mrs. Albert Cox.



MRS. ALBERT COX,
President Nineteenth Century History
Class, Atlanta, Ga.

Its offices are now elective, and consist of a president, Mrs. Albert Cox; vice-president, Mrs. Vassar Woolley; secretary and treasurer, Miss Emma Tuller.

Georgia Sorosis was founded in July, 1892, at the home of Mrs. Eugene B. Heard, of Rose Hill, Middleton, by five ladies, including the hostess.

These were Mrs. Sarah Ann Bowman, Mrs. Alfred S. Oliver, *"Wisdom, justice, and moderation."* Mrs. O. A. Harper, Mrs. G. C. Thomas, and Mrs. E. B. Heard.

Mrs. Bowman was elected president, and occupied this position until she died, in 1897. Mrs. Bowman's fine tact, high character, and freedom from aggressive methods greatly aided the growth and reputation which the club acquired.



MRS. SARAH A. BOWMAN,
First President of Georgia Sorosis

Two months after its organization, with a membership of nineteen representative women of Elbert County, it became incorporated, and united with the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This union became and remained its stimulus to live for all that its constitution implied, which was "to promote the highest intellectual development of its members and to aid in any way in the improvement of opportunities for the community."

Within three months its list of active members had increased to thirty-five, and a waiting list had been begun. This membership was divided into committees upon education, civics, literature, household science, art, philanthropy, music, and current events.

The work was good, quiet, and conscientious, and greatly strengthened club interest outside of its membership.

Up to the present time meetings have been held in the parlors of the members on the first Tuesday of every month, and, in addition, there is an annual dinner at which the husbands of the members are invited guests. This is a brilliant social event, and the honor of an invitation is eagerly sought.

Georgia Sorosis took the initiative steps in calling the convention which met in Atlanta to consider the advantage of a State federation. In this convention it was given a leading and honored place.

The State federation adopted the seal and motto of Georgia Sorosis, which is also the seal of the State; the Cherokee rose, the club flower, was also made the flower of the State federation.



Georgia Sorosis reviews its life of five years with a measure of satisfaction in the results achieved. The influence of the club has always been elevating and educational. It has become a potent social and educational factor in Elberton. The name bestowed by Sorosis, the mother club, has been an inspiration to earnest effort and broader views of life. The club occupies a place in the State all its own, and its hope and endeavor are always to prove worthy.

S. H. H.

The Atlanta Woman's Club.—The first called meeting of the Atlanta Woman's Club was at the residence of Mrs. William Bell Lowe on November 5, 1895. At this meeting were gathered about fifty of the leading ladies of Atlanta, and, as invited guests, Mrs. Croly, who was asked to address the company upon the advantages of club organization, and Mrs. Merrill, of Cambridge, Mass., who spoke of the work of the Cantabrigia Club. Later meetings were held, and enthusiasm for the work gained strength until January 20th, when, an organization having been effected, with Mrs. W. B. Lowe as its first president, the club formally opened the doors of its own rooms to a membership of 160 thoroughly in earnest women.

A well-considered constitution and by-laws set forth the object as threefold—"social and literary culture and human advancement."

To facilitate the object, eight divisions of work were arranged—literature, art, science, education, philanthropy, the home, civics, and the business woman.

Current events were to receive attention, and music became a valued feature.

The financial question was settled by a clever device of the president. During the first year a frame for advertising cards from only first-class houses was placed in a special corner of the large and attractive club-room. From this source an income was derived of \$1,000, which more than represented the outlay during this formative period.

The Atlanta Club affiliated at once with the General Federation, and began vigorous work in civics and the correction of some State laws.

An address given in March by Miss Whaley, from the section of civics, upon the "Development of Social Regulations in the State," directed attention towards existing needs and evils, and showed clearly the duty of women in assuming the office of social regenerators.

In April of its first year it appointed Mrs. A. E. Buck chairman of a committee to issue a "call" for the formation of a State federation, and acted as hostess of the nearly twenty clubs that responded to the invitation.

This State meeting was a point of departure for the entire club life of women in Georgia.

The knowledge of each other and of their own existence in an associated

capacity inspired them with new powers. Leaders for the different departments of work were developed from unexpected sources, and an enthusiasm for humanity became a leading influence in social life.

The election of Mrs. Lowe to the State presidency obliged her to resign as first officer in the Atlanta Woman's Club. The choice then fell upon Mrs. John King Ottley, a woman of distinguished ability, and chairman of the Programme Committee for the State federation.



MRS. JOHN K. OTTLEY,
Second President Woman's Club,
Atlanta, Ga.

The Atlanta Woman's Club has always been a stimulating force in State federation work. In May, 1897, it invited the State Library Committee to a consideration of "Library Development in Georgia."

Representatives were invited from the State library, the Young Men's Library of Atlanta, the Young Men's Library of Augusta, the public libraries of Macon, Columbus, and Rome, the library of the Woman's Club of La Grange, and the library of the Agnes Scott Institute.

The topics discussed were "Library Interests," by Mrs. John C. Printup, of Rome; "Travelling Libraries," by Mrs. Eugene Heard, of Middleton; "The American Library Association," by Mrs. M. Wodley, Augusta; "The Library of Congress," Mrs. Burton Smith, Atlanta, and "The Need of a Free Public Library," by Prof. Charles M. Neal, of Edgewood.

The library reports, through their representatives from the different libraries of the State, were most valuable and interesting.

In the evening the Young Men's Library Association of Atlanta gave a reception to the Library Committee of the Georgia Federation of Women's Clubs and the visiting librarians.

It was through the efforts of the State federation that the Georgia Legislature passed a bill permitting a woman to hold the office of State librarian, the first concession of that body in the direction of allowing women to hold official positions in the State.

Students' Club of Columbus.—The nucleus of the Students' Club must be found in the Art Club of Columbus, organized in 1889.

This club existed for six years; its membership limited to twenty-five; its object defined in the following preamble to its constitution: "Realizing the advantages of a thorough and systematic course of study of the principles of true art, and of the benefit gained by united effort, we, whose names are

hereto appended, do form ourselves into a society for such study, and, for the government of the same, ordain the following constitution and by-laws."

*"Knowledge the wing
wherewith we fly to
Heaven."*

The inspiration was derived from an address given at an informal gathering by Mrs. George C. Duy, who became the president and remained so for several years.

The early programmes were devoted to early Greek and Egyptian art and architecture, followed by studies in poetry and music, the chemistry of color, Oriental metal work, German illumination, leading down to modern American art and sculpture.

After an existence of six years the club disbanded, and some of its members aided in forming the Students' Club, which is, however, organized on quite other lines; its studies representing modern literature, national development, and current events.

The Students' Club dates from November, 1895. The general subject for its first year of work was America, past and present, beginning with its discovery, and proceeding along the lines of the colonial period, the war for independence, the development of national issues, and the reconstructed nation which has grown out of its strifes and struggles. Representative literature and art have followed naturally as themes, closing with State conditions and resources.

The president of the club for 1895-96 was Miss A. C. Jones; the secretary, Miss Miriam C. Tillman.

The standing committees are upon programme and the executive, which consists of four members and the treasurer. There are two critics.

The colors of the club are those of the Art Club—red, white, and blue.

Woman's Club, of Rome, was formed in the autumn of 1894, and entered upon its third year in 1897 with a membership of thirty-five women. It is managed by a governing board of five members, of which Mrs. John C. Printup is chairman.

The first president was Mrs. Edward Hale; and it was during her administration that the department of philanthropy established the Emergency Hospital, which received during its first year upwards of one hundred patients, two-thirds of whom were treated without remuneration.

The Philanthropic Committee has also established a free kindergarten, the attendance at which ranges from thirty to fifty children. A teacher is employed, and the school has grown in interest until it has become recognized as a valuable adjunct to educational work.

The educational and library department, under the chairmanship of Mrs. J. A. Gammon, has collected a library of about two hundred volumes, circulated among the clubs in remote districts which need books. It has become

a source of intercommunication as well as education, and will undoubtedly lay the foundation of travelling libraries in the State.

There are departments of household economics and history and literature, which furnish interesting subjects for thought and discussion.

The president is Mrs. J. Lindsay Johnson, the editor of the *Rome Georgian*, a weekly Sunday paper, which has been made the federation organ.

Mrs. C. S. Sparks was the delegate from the Rome Woman's Club to the Southern States Exhibition at Nashville, and made the report of the federation gathering for the *Rome Georgian*.

Woman's Shakespearean Club of Barnesville.—The report of this club, as given by its delegate at Rome, gives a membership of twenty-five active women, who have done much good work in various directions. The literary study has been confined to Shakespeare, and this section, aided by the club, is working to establish a good reference library which will be useful to all students. But this is only one of the directions in which a wise activity is showing good results. Mrs. Cochrane, the president, has established a night school for factory hands with thirty-two pupils, club members giving their services as teachers. A Factory Girls' Club has also been organized and permanently established in club-rooms, where a committee from the "Shakespearean" meets the girls, to furnish guidance in their instruction and entertainment.

Under the auspices of the club a course of university extension lectures has been enjoyed by the community. Two very interesting lectures were also furnished by the president of Gordon Institute at the invitation of the club.

The programmes of the Shakespearean Club have been considered worthy of an introduction by the Shakespearean scholar and critic, Professor W. J. Rolfe; and although much of its work was done in the beginning in a very informal way, yet earnest desire has brought forth fruit, and the Shakespearean Club is becoming as exact in parliamentary method as it is sincere in its cultivation of the best in literature.

The officers of the club are: President, Mrs. Cochrane; secretary, Miss Lily R. Turner.

Floricultural Club, of Covington, was organized in the interests of flower culture by Mrs. James N. Pace in 1895. It does no literary work, but is enthusiastic in its study of floral life, making a special study of the development of chrysanthemums. Its annual chrysanthemum exhibit is considered in some respects superior to that of professional growers, and its rose show in May, 1897, attracted the interest of rose growers throughout the State.

Its membership is increasing, and attracting a corresponding membership outside of Covington. The women composing it cultivate a strong *esprit du corps*, and work without apparent rivalry for the success of their object.

Mrs. Pace was chairman of the Badge Committee for the State federation.

The officers of the Floricultural Club are : President, Mrs. J. N. Pace ; secretary, Mrs. H. B. Anderson ; treasurer, Mrs. W. A. Candler.

The Alumnæ Association of Shorter College was formed in June, 1897. It has two score of members residing in Rome, but there are nearly three hundred women, representing the most diverse elements in society, that are entitled to membership. The association has bimonthly meetings, at which a literary and musical programme is presented. Two of the aims of the association are, first, adding to the library of Shorter College in the directions most needed for usefulness, and, second, creating an annual free scholarship for the same institution.

The association was the first college alumnæ to join the State federation. Mrs. B. S. Moseley, of the *Rome Georgian*, was its representative.

Idaho

SIXTY years ago the present State of Idaho was first entered by white women. Mrs. Whitman and Mrs. Spaulding came with their husbands, Dr. Whitman and the Rev. Mr. Spaulding, to labor as missionaries among the Indians, crossing the Rocky Mountains six years before General Fremont, the "Pathfinder." Thirty miles from the place where the Spauldings began their work is the city of Moscow, second in size in the State, and the home of the State University of Idaho. The principal growth of the place has been obtained in the last decade since the advent of the railroads. Consequently the social life has been of a very different character from that of older States. Lacking everything, environment had to be created; but with the fertility of resource for which the American people are famous, the task was



THE PLEIADES' FIRST PLACE OF MEETING

Home of Mrs. F. B. Gault, President of the Club's Board of Directors, Moscow, Idaho

begun. The advent of the university was a powerful aid to the creation of an intellectual atmosphere. Graduates from the best schools became numbered among the residents and brought with them the culture and aspirations of the older States.

In 1892 the **Pleiades** started with seven wives of the faculty of the university, who met once a week to read, and discuss in a somewhat informal fashion the books that were read.

It was not, however, until the autumn of 1895 that a constitution was adopted, and an organization effected which soon passed beyond the early limit of membership. The Pleiades joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and set itself to serious work. The object is still literary and social. But its work is scholarly, and its social events of a highly interesting and refined character. The study of Shakespeare has been the special work of the club for the past two years, supplemented by discussions upon the general topics of the day.

The membership is still small, but it is now organized under four departments—literature, home, education, and philanthropy. It meets on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. The president (1897-98) is Mrs. K. R. Henderson.

The **Idaho Springs Shakespeare Club** was organized in 1888 by Mrs. Cora Bullis, who became its first president. The club lapsed after her death until Miss Bowen became a resident in 1892. In 1894 it was reorganized, and Miss Bowen elected the president. It is now a member of the General and State Federations, and does excellent literary and Shakespearean work. It was greatly aided during her residence in the neighborhood by Mrs. Beveridge Hill, an accomplished woman, who now lives in Chicago. The membership is limited to twenty, and is entertained in an informal way every other Saturday afternoon by some one of its members.



SARAH COWAN OSTRANDER,
Second President of the Pleiades, Moscow,
Idaho



MRS. FRANKLIN B. GAULT,
Ex-President of Pleiades Club, Moscow,
Idaho

The Ladies' Historical Club, of Moscow, was founded August, 1895, with thirty active members, and the intention, from the beginning, of serious and thorough historical work. The motto is "*Progression brings happiness.*" and the club works up to it.

Its first year was devoted to the investigation of prehistoric America, and afterwards to American literature. Current events of a national character have employed a part of the energies of the brilliant group of women that compose the membership. There are the warmest club fellowship and intercourse between the Historical Club and the Pleiades, many of the women being members or officers in both clubs.



MRS. J. H. FORNEY,
President Ladies' Historical Club, Moscow,
Idaho

Mrs. J. H. Forney, the president of the Historical Club, is one of the Board of Directors of the Pleiades, and there are other interchangeable relations. The founder of the Historical Club, Mrs. C. W. McCurdy, is now its honorary president.

The club colors are white and red, and the flower, clover. Its year books show a cultivated taste in the selection and arrangement of topics, as, for instance: "The best of a book is the thought it suggests," and "The price of retaining what we know is always to seek to know more." The Ladies' Historical Club meets on alternate Saturdays. Its membership is thirty-five women, and its president is Mrs. J. H. Forney.

Who that has travelled in Idaho but recalls the loveliness of the region about Lake Cœur d'Alene! It is in the heart of this district that the little town of Wallace is situated; and it is here that a delightful musical club has grown into active existence. The inspiration of this organization was derived from the diffusive spirit and musical attainments of Mrs. J. G. Boyd, who succeeded in creating a musical atmosphere of educational value for the young people, and made a distinct mark upon the community.

The organization is known as the **Cœur d'Alene Treble Clef**, and its object is "to foster and quicken the taste of its members for the study and practice of music, and musical literature." Meetings are held fortnightly; first, for business, and, after, for the production of a musical programme. This begins with the reading of a paper upon music or the work of some composer. Then follow six instrumental and vocal numbers, the work finish-

ing with an hour of vocal practice. The club has been of great service in fostering the growth of musical taste and ability in the town of Wallace, and has been especially helpful to the young people in the community. It was organized in October, 1894, by Mrs. Boyd and Miss Musa Kate Howes. Miss Howes is vice-president; Miss Rose E. Anderson, corresponding secretary.

There was no other woman's club in this part of the country at the time the Treble Clef was formed. There was a Woman's Suffrage Society, which has since reorganized and

"For music's all-pervading power ennobles and exalts the soul."

become a club for the study of political science and municipal government. The motto of Treble Clef is, "For music's all-pervading power ennobles and exalts the soul." The flower is the wild rose; and the insignia, the musical sign of the name.

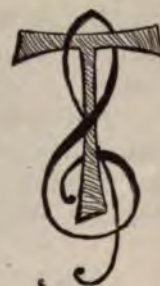
The Woman's Columbian Club, of Boise City, is the largest club in the State. It consists of about one hundred members, and is proud to count among them Mrs. Mary Halleck Foote, formerly of New York, but now of Idaho, and well known as author and artist.

The original object of the Columbian Club was to "found and maintain a free reading-room and circulating library for the town of Boise; and in other ways promote its 'mental, moral, and social interests.'"

The club has accomplished its purpose in founding a library and reading-room; has furnished and now supports them for the benefit of the town. But it has also developed fine literary club features. Among the subjects discussed during the year have been: "The Advantages of Public and Travelling Libraries," "Literary Standards in Women's Clubs," "Town and Village Improvement Associations," "The School: a Moral Factor in the Nation," and "The Ideal American Gentleman."

Mrs. Alice R. Straughn was the founder and is the president of the Woman's Columbian Club, and Mrs. Fanny Lyon Cobb, chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, the secretary.

The club colors are taken from the blossom and foliage of the sage-brush—sage-green and deep yellow, Ruskin's favorites.



MRS. FANNY LYON COBB,
Chairman State Correspondence for General
Federation of Women's Clubs in Idaho

Mrs. Straughn represented Idaho in the Woman's Department of the World's Fair, and she most ably guides and inspires the work of the Columbian Club.

The Woman's Study League is one of the most recent of the women's club organizations in Idaho. The town of Pocatello, where it was organized, was a trespass on an Indian reservation at the junction of the Oregon Short-line and Utah Northern railroads. The point was needed to establish repair



MRS. ALICE STRAUGHN,
Founder and Present President Columbian
Club, Boise, Idaho



MRS. LOUISE EOFF,
First President of Columbian Club, Boise,
Idaho

shops and machine works, and demanded the employment of skilled as well as unskilled workmen. It became also the national centre of department offices, but was somewhat irregular in character until six or seven years ago. A treaty was then made with the Indians, and a town site grant acquired from the government. It was surveyed, laid out with some order, and a phenomenal growth has since marked its progress.

Its residential population consists mainly of railroad mechanics and employees, agricultural and mining interests being both barred out by reservation restrictions.

The climate is made up of sun and pure mountain air, bright and bracing.

Notwithstanding the somewhat primitive character of employments, there are social "sets" even in Pocatello, and lines are drawn, not very rigidly and not upon a money basis, but more naturally by educational standards. It was the need which educated women felt that laid the foundations for a woman's study league.

In 1896 four ladies met and talked over the practicability of a woman's

club for study and mutual improvement. It organized with six members, four of whom were officers. Each member was accorded the privilege of inviting two or three friends to join the league as charter members. After that applications were formal and in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and by-laws.

The league has now over thirty members. It has studied American history and literature, and has planned a course of European history which presents some original features.

The literature of the period is studied at the same time with its history.

Responses to roll-call are made by brief reports of current events, and they are often very bright and witty, as well as a training in ready expression.

A regular drill in parliamentary law is training the club in parliamentary methods.

During the past winter it has broadened its work by having a course of lectures given under its auspices, and laying foundations in the purchase of books for a public library.

The most diversified elements enter into the membership of the Pocatello Woman's League, but they are all inspired by the same desire to grow on progressive lines; and they work harmoniously together because they have a common impulse, and a common pleasure in the result.

The league has been fortunate in its president, Mrs. Standrod, the wife of Judge Standrod, a woman of cultivated taste and magnetic personality.

Mrs. Standrod has labored unceasingly with the aid of an efficient group of co-workers for the building up of an organized centre of intellectual development and social progress.



SAGE



MRS. E. F. STANDROD,
President Woman's Study League, Pocatello, Idaho

Women's Clubs in Illinois

OUT of the fifty-five clubs in the General Federation from the State of Illinois, thirty-three are credited to Chicago. It was not in the metropolis of the West, however, that the club life of women had its start. Friends in Council, though not organized till 1869, came together as a group in 1867, and Jacksonville Sorosis, inspired by the mother club in New York, organized by permission under the same name in December of the year 1868.

The first club formed in Chicago was the Fortnightly, in May, 1873. It was founded by a scholarly woman, Mrs. Kate N. Doggett, who was its first president and remained its presiding officer for seven years. Mrs. Doggett's first annual message contained these words: "Our chief object was not to found an aristarchy, nor even a debating society, but to gather earnest, thoughtful women into an organized body, whose growth and development should help us to a better social and mental life than we had known."

This first club has given rise to many others in and out of the State, and its character has undoubtedly exerted an influence upon the intellectual life of the city.

The club life in Illinois has not, however, received so strong an impulse in any one direction as in some other Western States. There are more variety of method and greater diversity of aim than where the foundation has been laid almost exclusively by the study clubs. The Chicago Woman's Club, organized in 1875, stands as the representative of the "department" club—that modern, many-sided institution which is really a number of independent organizations grouped under one head and acknowledging one centre of authority.

There are other clubs throughout the country that have followed closely the lead of the Woman's Club of Chicago, but as the strongest, if not the earliest of its kind, it is placed in the list of representative clubs found in preceding chapters. Among these representative clubs are also Friends in Council and the Fortnightly, as foundation study clubs, thus taking out of the State proper three of its oldest and most notable club organizations.

The Arché Club of Chicago.—The Arché grew out of a small class formed in 1889 for the study of art by a few women of Chicago. Working

at first without leadership, its fortunes were varying, but with longer experience the study of literature was united with that of art, and a club was formed on the original class foundation.



As the horizon grew wider the talent of expert lecturers and musicians was enlisted in its instruction and entertainment, and by devotion to serious study under the able leadership of Mrs. Mary H. Ford and the active efforts of the president, who was also the founder, Mrs. Herman J. Hall, its aims became distinctive and its organization among the strongest and most distinguished for breadth and purpose in this city of well-organized societies. The leading forces have been Mrs. Ford as lecturer and Mrs. Hall as presiding officer. Through the work of the club its influence is now felt throughout the art circles of Chicago. Each season the Arché holds a salon for the exhibition of the works of Chicago artists and sculptors and this has been instrumental in encouraging local talent, many pictures having been sold, either at the salon proper or as the result thereof.

In the season of 1896 pictures and sculpture shown were works not before placed on exhibition, and at this time the club awarded \$450 in six prizes to the artists and sculptors of Chicago, this being the first instance where a prize has been offered by a club to sculptors.

The particular work of the Arché in a philanthropic way is the aiding of the Model Lodging House for Women, established some years since, and under the care and supervision of the women's clubs of the city.

Each year an entertainment for the benefit of the lodging house is given by the junior members of the club, who have formed themselves into an auxiliary society. These entertainments have been among the delightful and successful features of the club season. Also, a large amount of clothing made at the lodging house has been sold at the club meetings, thus exerting that best and wisest of all beneficences—the helping of others to help themselves.

With 1897 began the ninth season of the Arché Club, and, with increased experience and ever-widening circle of friends, its members will "press forward to those things which are



MRS. HERMAN J. HALL,
Founder and President of Arché Club,
Chicago, Ill.



MRS. MARY H. FORD,
Lecturer for Arché Club,
Chicago, Ill.

before," confidently expecting even greater pleasure, profit, and usefulness in the future than in the past.

The officers and directors for 1897 are: President, Mrs. Herman J. Hall; first vice-president, Mrs. William H. Holmes; second vice-president, Mrs. Sidney O. Blair; recording secretary, Mrs. Charles F. Millspaugh; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Walter Olds; treasurer, Mrs. Charles R. Dickerson.

The membership of the Arché Club is now about five hundred, not inclusive of the Auxiliary. The president of the Auxiliary is Miss Mary W. Kilgour.

The Cellare Club, of Streator, was founded in September, 1887, as a study club for the improvement of its members in literature and art.

The fifth year, 1892, was devoted to classified study for the purpose of preparation to put to best use the opportunities afforded by the World's Fair, especially in the field of art. During the year a course of lectures was conducted, illustrated by the stereopticon, which included architecture and sculpture, as well as some of the masters in painting.

The work led to special talks on the Florentine school by Mrs. Bingham, of Chicago, and later to other occasions which were partly social and partly filled by addresses upon different art topics. These developed a more earnest and systematic study of the subject, that has been found invaluable in the later work of the club. It now works under several departments, including literature, home, education, philanthropy, and social economics.

Its membership is about thirty; it meets weekly on Fridays; and the president is Mrs. M. A. Finlin. It joined the General Federation in 1892, and is a charter member of the State federation.

Century Club, of Rockford, was organized in 1887. Its object: culture along the lines of social and intellectual development. Its studies have been miscellaneous, but generally broad and of national importance.

Among its members were Mrs. Ralph Emerson, Mrs. Talcott, and others of Rockford's most influential and cultivated women.

It has had some interesting and social events, but has suffered from the financial depression which struck the Western industries so heavily in 1896-7, also from the illness and absence of some of its most active members.

CIVIC CLUBS.—The Geneva Improvement Association was the pioneer

in civic work in Illinois. In its beginning it owed much to the energy of Mrs. Julia Plato Harvey, an ex-president of the Chicago Woman's Club, and vice-president in 1892 of the General Federation of Women's Clubs. This association, through its work, has literally changed the aspect of Geneva. No attention had been paid to the details of town housekeeping until its persistent effort had proved efficiency, and the money which it had raised for street-cleaning purposes was then supplemented by the city, which furnished an appropriation and gave the women the supervision of the work. A slow but steady growth in favor of cleanliness was the result. Clean yards, door-
fronts, and sidewalks became the rule. A civic pride was aroused, and now Geneva is noted for its neatness and the care bestowed upon its streets and homes.

The association was also the means of obtaining a public library, and giving several fine courses of lectures and entertainments to the general public. It coöperates with the city council in the care of the cemeteries. The Geneva Improvement Association works under the following departments: Streets and public improvements, including cemeteries and public hall; education, including university extension, library, press, and study class; civic affairs, including city council, jails, courts, and suffrage; philanthropy, including mothers' meetings, children's class, and district visiting; ways and means, including membership and entertainment committees.

The mothers' meetings are models of their kind. They bring all classes of women together, and discuss topics of general interest, as well as supervise the sewing classes of the girls.

A very successful study class is maintained, which meets every week and carries out well-arranged programmes. A column in the local paper is edited each week, headed by the association's motto, "The noblest motive is the public good."

Aurora Woman's Club has had an active existence for eight years. In the winter of 1889-90 twenty-eight ladies of Aurora conducted a course of lectures on art and travel, and found, after the tickets were sold, that they would have at the end of the season a surplus of nearly \$400. This money formed the nucleus for the Woman's Club, which was organized on December 12, 1890, with these twenty-eight ladies as charter members.

The object of the club, as defined by the constitution, is "the practical consideration of the important questions that grow out of the relations of the individual to society. It is independent of sect, party, or society cliques."

The first president was Mrs. W. H. Vanarsdale. The club grew rapidly, and soon reached a membership of two hundred women. Its first practical work was the enforcement of the "truant" law, which had been a dead letter. In the winter of 1891 it succeeded in putting one hundred and eighty children

into the schools, and also clothed them. The following year the law was repealed, but the club did not cease its active work. On the contrary, it became broader, and grew into the present Associated Charities of Aurora.

A second branch of helpful and successful work has been carried on by the art and literature department of the club. This has brought before the people good pictures and statuary as art exhibits. This led to the practical work of decorating two schoolrooms each year. It has been done by properly coloring the walls, and placing in the rooms pictures and plaster casts of artistic merit.

The home and education department is especially interested in kindergarten work and in promoting the best interests of the home. This department established and maintained for three years two first-class kindergartens. It is planning now to establish a free kindergarten in one of the poorer districts. It has also given two receptions to the public school teachers, each one proving a delightful society function.

The reform and philanthropy department does a large share of the work in the charity council. For two years past it has maintained a kitchen garden in summer and a cooking school in winter in a district where such work is greatly needed. A needlework guild is managed by this department. It has also taken several boys from the street, clothed and sent them to the Glenwood Industrial School.

The members of the Aurora Woman's Club work together harmoniously, always striving for the greatest good to the greatest number.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. A. J. Hopkins; vice-presidents, Mrs. F. M. Annis and Mrs. Hiram Johnson; recording secretary, Mrs. R. P. Goodwin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. D. Judson; treasurer, Mrs. H. V. Binger.

The Woman's Club of Springfield was organized for practical work by women who felt that the time had come when the moral force of women could be utilized in practical directions. A meeting was called at the Executive Mansion, to which seventy-five women responded. An organization was effected, a constitution and by-laws adopted, and officers elected.

The objects, as stated in the constitution, "shall be mutual counsel and improvement and general educational, literary, and philanthropic work."

The club works in departments, each under the direction of a chairman. Philanthropy, under the guidance of Mrs. Mary J. Stadden, has done and is doing most effective work. The children of the poor are the special care of this department. Any child reported by teacher or by a club member will be clothed ready for school. Every effort is exerted to create a city and State sentiment in favor of a law for the State care of dependent children.

A high order of literary work has been pursued. Mrs. E. S. Walker,

chairman of the literary department, directed the arrangement of a fine programme for 1898 upon the Victorian era in art and literature. Study of United States government is the work of the department of education, under Mrs. Timothy Castle. The chairman of the Home Committee is Mrs. Martha Baxster. Architecture, sanitation, lighting, sewerage, and the general care of the home receive the attention of this department, and furnish the topics for many interesting discussions.

The social element is strong, and monthly teas and receptions are held in the homes of the members, or elsewhere, when large general functions are projected. A physical culture committee is an important feature, this special interest having been largely instrumental in the formation of the club.

The membership has varied with the coming and going of State officials, but now rests at three hundred women. The government is vested in a board of six directors, and an honorary member, who is the wife of the Governor. The officers are: President, Francine E. Patton; first vice-president, Laura C. Johnson; second vice-president, Caroline O. Brown; recording secretary, Mary G. Mitchell; corresponding secretary, Maude Whitley; treasurer, Lillian Burkhardt.

The Chicago Culture Club was founded by Mrs. Ella E. Lane-Bowes, in the guild room of the Church of the Epiphany, Chicago, February 4, 1895, with seventy women as charter members. The primary object was a course of lectures under instruction, and the promotion of excellence in literature, art, and music. Mrs. Mary H. Ford became the instructor, and Mrs. Bowes the president.

The name, sentiment, and flower were given by Mrs. Bowes, and also the crest, which is used as a pin, was designed by her. The motto was suggested by the rector of the church, who offered the guild room as the first club home. The motto is "*Vis unita fortior*," "Strength united is stronger"; the colors, red, white, and blue; the crest, used as a club pin, is symbolic: a pen to represent literature; a wreath for art, backed with a shield in the national colors, and the monogram C. C. C. across the face of the shield. The sentiment is: "There is a mistaken idea that culture means to paint a little, to sing a little, to dance a little, and to quote passages from the late popular books. As a matter of fact, culture means mastery over self; politeness, charity, fairness, good temper, good conduct. Culture is not a thing to make a display of; it is something to use so modestly that people do not discover all at once that you have it." The flower is the goldenrod.

In April, 1896, the club was organized with a constitution and by-laws,



CHICAGO CULTURE CLUB,
ILL.



MRS. ELLA E. LANE-BOWES,
A Judge at World's Columbian Exposition, 1893,
Chicago, Ill.

and a board of officers, of which Mrs. E. E. Lane-Bowes was elected president; France S. Lane, vice-president, and Miss A. M. Kohlsaas, corresponding secretary; recording secretary, treasurer, and six directors completed the board.

While the primary object of the club is social and intellectual culture, it aims to found scholarships for young women and cultivate reciprocity with other clubs. It has extended the courtesy of membership to the wives of members of the clergy, and invited to its receptions representative members of the various women's clubs in the city. Its guest of honor at its first anniversary was the president of the General Federation, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin. Among its honorary members are: Miss Harriet G. Hosmer, Mrs. Bertha Honore Palmer, Mrs. V. C. Meredith, Mrs. Mary H.

Ford, and Mrs. George B. Swift. The first reception given to these ladies was distinguished by striking talks from Mrs. Ford and Miss Hosmer upon Alexander Dumas. They were made more impressive by news flashed over the wires that Alexander Dumas was dying, and the addresses became at once a tribute to the living and a eulogy of the dead.

On March 2d Professor H. B. Frissell, of the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, with his negro and Indian students, were present. On this occasion Mrs. Ford's instructive talk was on Charles Baudelaire, and the presence of these students furnished living examples of the results of the teachings of the poet of the new generation, and called forth a unanimous vote to found a scholarship in the Hampton Normal and Agricultural Institute, to be called the Chicago Culture Club Scholarship.

The club was incorporated in 1895, and is a member of the General and State Federations. It has an auxiliary society of young women, whose members are known as the Chicago Culture Club Associates. This society shares in the pleasures of the club, without the privilege of voting, at a nominal fee of three dollars; and may give special entertainments at the discretion of the Board of Directors of the Chicago Culture Club. The first president of this society was Miss Irma L. Smith; secretary, Miss Dorothy Fick.

The Chicago Culture Club gives an annual reception to which gentlemen are invited. Its membership increased during its first year from seventy to

one hundred and seventy-five. Mrs. E. E. Lane-Bowes was appointed by the Board of Lady Managers a judge of awards for the department of manufactures in the Columbian Exposition. At the close of the Columbian Exposition proper, her services were retained, and she was chosen to be one of the four women judges, to act in conjunction with four men judges, to expedite the work of appeal in awards for the department of manufactures. Mrs. Bowes was appointed to write official reports on millinery, sewing-machine products, women's patents, toys and games, and silks for the entire world, except the broad silks of France.

The Decatur Woman's Club.—This active organization is a "club of clubs." Its coming together was the thought of Mrs. Mary E. Haworth, who felt that the combined influence of the several clubs of the city, centred in one strong coöperative association, might be made a power in needed directions. On May 31, 1887, this union was effected with a membership of one hundred and fifty women. Mrs. Haworth had been a member of the Chicago Woman's Club, had served as president and secretary of the Decatur Library Board, and is a member of the Board of Education.* Her wide experience and executive ability were of recognized value in laying the foundation for a club made up of independent forces. The six sections or departments into which the Decatur Club is divided consists of "Decatur Sorosis," which discusses topics of the day, parliamentary questions, national, State, and city government, excepting on the last Monday of each month, which is designated "author's day," and is devoted to literary subjects.

Section second is known as "Chautauqua," and pursues the Chautauqua course, doing the required reading in connection with the study outlined by that society.

The third section, "Psalemas," is the especial pride of the whole club. It meets on Tuesday evening. Its members are teachers, bookkeepers, stenographers, and others employed during the day. It gives one-half of each meeting to nineteenth century poets, taking them in turn, and the other half to a lively discussion of current topics.

Section fourth is a highly successful Shakespeare class. The meetings are held on Wednesday afternoon, and the entire time given to the study of Shakespeare, his works, his contempo-



MRS. MARY E. HAWORTH,
Founder and President, 1887-90, Woman's
Club, Decatur, Ill.

raries, and historic environment. Papers and lectures are arranged for, relating to the plays under discussion.

Mrs. R. L. Walston has been its leader for years, and has brought the class up to a high grade of Shakespearean scholarship.

Section fifth comes under the head of art and literature, and takes Thursday afternoon for its meetings. The study is the work outlined in the magazine called *The Arts*, which embraces such general topics as the "Object of Art," "Mediums," "Invention," "Schools of Painting," "Composition," "Perspective," and "Pictures that Tell their Story."

Section sixth is musical, and the study is given to the different "Schools of Music," "Composers," "Modern Music," "Opera," "Women in Music," "American Pianists," and the like. A choral class has been organized, and pleasant entertainments have been given.

The Woman's Club had been organized two years, and found at its adjournment, June 5, 1889, that larger accommodations must be secured.

It first occurred to Miss Laura B. Wikoff, one of the members, that a building might be erected, which would make for the club a permanent home, where the arrangements would be such as to give the commodious quarters desired by a progressive organization.

After many meetings and consultations, a plan to organize a stock company was formed, having a capital stock of \$6,000, shares \$10 each; these shares to be held by women only. Some trouble and much delay were experienced by the stock company in getting out the incorporation papers, as this was the first instance in the State of Illinois in which application had been made to permit women to form a stock company to build a club-house and the second such application in the United States.

On May 19, 1890, active work upon the building began, and the corner-stone was laid June 19, 1890.

On the 1st of December, 1890, this building was formally opened, and on the 5th of the same month the club held its first meeting in the assembly hall.

The completed building, with lot, cost the stock company \$13,454.12. The basement and first floor are rented for business purposes. On the second floor are library



WOMAN'S CLUB-HOUSE, DECATUR, ILL.

and committee rooms, which are rented now, as they are not yet needed by the club. On the third floor is the assembly hall, and on the fourth floor the studios. The club-rooms are homelike and elegant. Rugs, palms, pictures, a grand piano, lamps, low book-cases filled with books, make a charming picture. Over the handsome oak mantel hangs an excellent portrait of Mrs. Haworth, founder of the club. In the dining-room are closets filled with tasteful china, linen, and all the articles needful in serving the teas, receptions, and lunches for which the club-women are famous.

Each section entertains the entire club once during the year with some kind of a programme in harmony with its line of work.

The club secures famous men and women for speakers, celebrates special



COMMITTEE ROOM, DECATUR CLUB-HOUSE, ILL.

occasions of various kinds, and is always found on the broad, advanced line of the thought of the day.

Its circle of influence is wide, and through its range of interests, and the loyalty of its members, it is able to make itself felt in all matters of public importance.

The club is fortunate in its present presiding officer, Mrs. M. P. Hostetter. She was a graduate from the University of Illinois, with the degree of B.S. Her ease and grace in presiding, her grasp of subjects, and delightful personality make her an ideal leader.

The other officers for 1897 are: First vice-president, Mrs. Mary E. Haworth; second vice-president, Mrs. Ida N. Baker; recording secretary, Mrs. N. P. Baker; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Cora B. Woulfe; treasurer, Miss Minnie B. Clarke.

The Board of Directors is obtained from the six departments into which the club membership, now grown to upwards of two hundred, is divided, each

contributing one. Each section elects its own officers and adopts its own plan of work.

The club motto is "Truth, justice, and honor"; the color, yellow. The picture of the club-room gives it as decorated for a national festival.

The Elgin Woman's Club, of Elgin, is a many-sided organization, and "Progress." came into existence during the summer of 1887 as the result of conferences held by members of the faculty of Elgin Academy, the wives of some of the trustees, and members of the *alumnæ* of this institution.

The primary object was to equip the academy for stronger work and increase its influence. A "call" was issued in the papers, signed by Mrs. Wilcox, of the Academy faculty, and the organization of a department club was the result.

The first work was the raising of \$2,000 by a kermess, with which stock in the institution was bought, the money being used to put in steam and otherwise improve the building.

The succeeding efforts were devoted to the erection of a manual training school building in connection with the academy and upon its grounds.

Early in the nineties the site was obtained by gift for a hospital building, and that enterprise was pursued steadily until Sherman Hospital was established. The general management is vested in the club, and much of the energy of its members is expended upon its affairs.

The property of this institution is valued at \$40,000, and its yearly expenditures reach \$15,000.

It is now one of the best known and most highly valued public institu-



CLUB-ROOM DECORATED FOR NATIONAL FESTIVAL, DECATUR, ILL.



WOMAN'S HOSPITAL AND HOME OF ELGIN WOMAN'S CLUB, ILL.

tions in the Fox River Valley, and has added to its other equipments a training school for nurses.

The fine rooms of the club are in the hospital building, and its educational department furnished them, presenting the pictures, rugs, screens, portières, and cabinets, as a gift to the club from the department membership.

The literary work of the club has been by no means neglected. There are standing committees upon art and literature, home and philanthropy, education and reform.

From the Literature Committee papers and discussions have been presented upon "Modern Educators," "The Humor of George Eliot," "The Chautauqua Idea," and many other topics, followed by discussions that are notably brilliant.

The Elgin Woman's Club has assisted the work of other clubs by allowing them the use of its club-room, rent free, and has nominated women as members of the school board on several occasions.

A special reception to teachers is held in November, the guests including the clergy of the city and the press. This has become the social event of the year, and is greatly enjoyed by those who participate in it.

"Progress" is the motto, and the word stands for every department in the club, and for all that it means.

The officers are: President, Mrs. H. B. Lowrie; vice-president, Cordelia J. Barclay; recording secretary, Amanda M. Lamb; corresponding secretary, Angie S. Chisholm; treasurer, Frances V. Allen; federation secretary, Lizzie C. Loucks.

In 1897 the Elgin City Railway Company established what is now recognized as "Trolley Day," and celebrated the anniversary of the founding of Sherman Hospital, June 22d, by allowing the women of the club to run the cars during the day and giving them sixty per cent. of the gross receipts. This amount, with that received from various other attractions at the different parks, added \$600 to the treasury.



INTERIOR ELGIN WOMAN'S CLUB-HOUSE, ILL.

There is a school for nurses at Slade Cottage on the hospital grounds, which is one of the most commendable features of the club work. Eight young women are here, being constantly trained for professional service.

The Elgin Woman's Club, through its members, has also done good work in connection with the Elgin Academy. Members have served acceptably on the Board of Trustees. They bought stock in this old and well-established co-education school. Two members of the club gave financial aid to this institution. Mrs. Lucy Lovell donated \$5,000 for the erection of a manual training school on the grounds. Mrs. G. P. Lord furnished and equipped the building. An entertainment was given which netted more than \$1,000. This was expended in the interests of the academy. A domestic science school was organized, a room fitted in the manual training building. A teacher was secured to take charge of a class of girls from the academy. All the practical arts of the home and work are taught. A professional cook gave a series of lectures and practical demonstrations to the women of Elgin at the club-rooms.

A cook book was published, which has been a source of revenue as well as use to the members.

Women from this organization have filled honorable positions on the public school board. They helped to introduce vocal music and drawing into the schools. They advocated giving scientific temperance instruction, and denounced the use of cigarettes among the pupils.

Mrs. Abbie B. Smith and her sister, Miss Anna Birge, desired their property to benefit Sherman Hospital after their decease. They have deeded their farm to the club, retaining a life lease. Miss Ellen A. Hinsdell, who died about a year and a half ago, bequeathed \$1,000 to this institution. The Coffee Club, a strong society of women, has supported a free bed at the hospital for several years.

Among the popular social occasions are "lawn fêtes," given during the summer, and which sometimes have been made a source of profit when funds were needed for a special purpose. There have been many other social occasions, upon some of which the sister clubs of Aurora, Geneva, and St. Charles were the invited guests. The club color is yellow, and the flower the carnation, and both are used upon all public and social occasions.

The Woman's Club, of Evanston, was called together by Mrs. Elizabeth Boynton Harbert at her own residence in March, 1889. An informal organization was effected and meetings held, over which the different members were called upon to preside.

The first paper, given on March 23d, was by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe upon "How can Women Best Associate?" and later Dr. Alice B. Stockham gave an address upon her travels in Russia and Finland.



MRS. ELIZABETH BOYNTON HARBERT

In 1890 an increased membership made a more formal organization desirable. A constitution was adopted, Mrs. Harbert was elected president, and Mrs. C. P. Stanwood secretary.

For the first three years the work was of a miscellaneous character and the membership limited. At first the club met at the home of the president, and one of its first social occasions was a reception to the school teachers of Evanston, signalized by an address from Colonel Parker, of Englewood, on the "Relation of the Child to the School." In 1891 Mrs. A. L. Butler presented the work of the Emergency Hospital with such success that the members of the club, working with others interested, obtained as results from a kermess

\$3,600 for the Emergency Hospital Building Fund.

In December of 1892 the limit of membership was removed. The Evanston Boat Club, which owns a beautiful building on the lake shore, in which is an assembly hall, tendered the use of the hall to the club, and there the meetings have since been held.

During the season of 1892 the club entertained at different times Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mrs. Henrotin, Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, Mrs. Dunlap, and Mrs. M. M. Wallace, who addressed it on the interests and plans of the World's Fair. A department was created for the study of the Chicago Exposition, which continued through the season of 1894. This proved a real "educator," and the club recognizes that its success was largely due to its active chairman, Miss Mary Harris.

Among the many helpful papers of the season of 1894 was one by Mrs. Henrotin on "Household Economics." So inspiring did the words of the speaker prove, that plans were at once made to organize a department for the furtherance of this object. Meetings were held twice each month, and papers on "Domestic Science," previously read at the World's Fair congresses, were presented to the members. At a meeting of the club held November 13, 1894, the club decided to work under department heads. A department of art and literature was formed, a committee being appointed to formulate a programme for the year. A department of philanthropy was also organized, with a chairman and secretary.

These two, added to the chair of household economics, constitute the three working divisions.

In April, 1897, after eight years of continuous service, Mrs. Elizabeth Boynton Harbert declined reelection, and Mrs. T. P. Stanwood was elected president in her place.

Mrs. Harbert's parting address was on the "Aims, Accomplishments, and Ideals of Women's Clubs."

Two suggestions were considered of sufficient importance to receive attention at the biennial of the General Federation in 1898. The first was, "What can women do toward securing a higher and more healthful class of amusements for the people?" the other, "The moral influence of national festivals, and the possibility of a woman's club festival day, in which the



FOUNTAIN DEDICATED TO MRS. ELIZABETH BOYNTON HARBERT BY WOMAN'S CLUB, EVANSTON, ILL.

heroes of peace, together with the wives and mothers of great men, should receive honor." Mrs. Harbert closed with the following words: "I will ask you for a moment to consider the suggestion in regard to the national festival. Our great poet-philosopher, Emerson, stated that he considered the essay entitled 'Festivals—Their Power as a Means of Moral Culture,' by Mrs. Mary Newbery Adams, one of the wisest and most valuable messages voiced by an American woman. If beauty is the smile of God, should we not undertake to speed it on its errand, and can we estimate the results if all the women's clubs of the country would devote one day in the year to a great festival of joy and beauty in which children could participate?"

As a memorial to their beloved founder, the club has erected a fountain, to be "an ever-flowing source of refreshment and usefulness."

The present officers are: President, Mrs. T. P. Stanwood; vice-president, Mrs. C. F. Gray; recording secretary, Mrs. A. S. Roddin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. W. Haass; chairman of Executive Committee, Miss Mary Harris.

The Friday Club, of Chicago, was started Friday, March 4, 1887, by two ladies, Mrs. Reginald de Koven and Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin. Its charter members and officers are: President, Mrs. Reginald de Koven; vice-presidents, Mrs. Henry Field, Mrs. R. S. McCormick, Miss Emma C. Preston, Miss Elizabeth King; recording secretary, Miss H. J. Landon; corresponding secretary, Miss E. W. Towner; Executive Committee, Mrs. Chester M. Dawes, Miss Lily V. Fay, Miss Jenny L. King, Miss Edith Chetlain, Miss May Henderson, Mrs. Henry Hooper.

Succeeding presidents have been, up to the present executive head, Mrs. Frederika Skinner, Mrs. William A. Otis, Miss M. S. Hill, and Miss C. Kirkland. The membership has been largely young women, and its literary aims are of a high order.

It first distinguished itself by conducting a bazar before the World's Fair, by which the members raised thirty-five thousand dollars for the completion and equipment of the Children's Building at the Columbian Exposition. The work was undertaken at the request of Mrs. Potter Palmer, and the bazar was held at her house. The sum obtained exceeded the amount needed by nearly fourteen thousand dollars, and the balance was distributed between the Greenwood School for Boys, the Chicago University, the Emergency Fund for Poor Women, and the Art Institute.

Among its members are several women notable in club and literary life. Among these are Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, Mrs. Henrotin, Miss Kirkland, Miss Healy, Miss J. L. King, Mrs. H. B. Butler, Mrs. Dunlap Smith, Miss E. W. Tanner, and others.

The early work was largely in French art and literature. Under the

Miscellaneous Committee, "National Characteristics," "Religious Myths," and "The Modern Woman" have given rise to interesting discussions.

The Friday Club is a member of the General Federation, and in 1894 departed for a second time from its somewhat conservative line of life to benefit the then newly established Central Art Association.

The entertainment under its auspices was held at the Art Institute, which was the headquarters of the World's Fair Congresses. The attractive programme was furnished by Mr. Hamlin Garland, Eugene Field, Octave Thanet, Sol. Smith Russell, and Joseph Jefferson. The profits were such as to insure a year's successful work for the Central Art Association, in building up an art centre in Chicago.

Friday Club meets on the first and third Fridays of the month. Its present membership is one hundred and fifty women; the president, Mrs. H. H. Martin. It works under committees upon education, philanthropy, music, and current topics.

The Hawthorne Club, of Galesburg, was organized for literary study and conversation in May, 1889. It has studied history with special reference to the art, poetry, religions, and social characteristics of the period and people. Its work has been pursued with conscience and refinement of taste, and has been a source of growth and great enjoyment to its members. Its intention is well expressed in the following quotation:

"The use of literature is to afford us a platform whence we may command a view of our present life, a purchase by which we may move it. We fill ourselves with ancient learning, install ourselves the best we can in Greek, in Roman houses, only that we may wiselier see French, English, and American houses and modes of living."—*Emerson*.

The Illinois Woman's Press Association.—This organization grew out of a woman's national press association projected at the New Orleans Exposition, in May, 1885, and which made Mrs. Nicholson, editor and proprietor of the New Orleans *Picayune*, its president. It was the thought of Mrs. Marion McBride, of Boston, Mass., superintendent of the Woman's Press Department of that exposition.

Her idea was to enlist a body of pen-women in national organization, with State auxiliaries.

Mrs. Frances A. Conant, one of the organizers of the National Woman's Press Association, interested the women writers of Chicago in the matter, and the Illinois Woman's Press Association came into being in the same year, the Chicago Press Club kindly allowing the use of its rooms for the early gatherings.

In January, 1886, a reorganization was effected on an independent basis





MRS. FRANCES A. CONANT,
Founder Illinois Woman's Press
Association

at the residence of Dr. Julia Holmes Smith. A constitution was formed on a broader basis, admitting all classes of writers, and also those connected with printed work, as illustrators, as well as workers in kindred fields.

Past as well as present work was considered a qualification for membership, but recent amendments to the constitution provide that the former can only be associates. The membership is classed according to its line of work, and each section has charge of a meeting during the year. The annual meeting is in June, and then the annual reports are read and officers elected. There are standing committees on programme, membership, social entertainments, literary information, and literary extension. This last is for the gratuitous distribution of perused literature.

The first president was Mrs. Elizabeth A. Reed, A.M. The present president is Mrs. S. M. Moses; vice-president, Mrs. J. K. Barnes; recording secretary, Mrs. H. E. Webster; corresponding secretary, Miss G. D'Unger; treasurer, Mrs. F. E. Owens; librarian, Mrs. F. M. Harley; historian, Miss Carlotta Perry.

Among the charter members were Sarah Hackett Stevenson, M.D.; Miss Frances E. Willard, Miss Caroline A. Huling, Miss Belle L. Gorton, Mrs. Logan, Mrs. Elizabeth Boynton Harbert, Dr. Julia Holmes Smith, and others as well known. Mrs. Frances A. Conant, the founder, has been made the only life member.

Heliades.—In the spring of 1881 a group of ladies, who had been intimate socially, met by previous appointment to organize for study. When an informal organization had been effected, the question was started, "What shall we study?" The president said: "I have long wished to make the world a study, to take every country and learn its geography, history, and present life, so that I can feel at home in it. This can best be done in a class, and it means work. Are you ready to undertake it?" They



MRS. SALLIE M. MOSES,
President Illinois Woman's Press
Association

replied, "We are ready; work is what we want." "For plan of study it was proposed to start where the day begins. At 180 degrees from the accepted meridian of London the mariner changes his reckoning forward or backward according to the direction in which he is sailing. So let us start here with the sun and travel with him, seeing all that he sees, of waters, lands, and peoples." As a class name, "Heliades," or the "Daughters of the Sun," was accepted.



The tour of Heliades around the world began 180 degrees longitude to 170 degrees with New Zealand, 170 degrees longitude to 160 degrees with Micronesia, 160 degrees longitude to 150 degrees with Melanesia, 150 degrees longitude to 140 degrees with Australia, Polynesia east of 180 degrees, East India, Japan, China, Chinese empire (Mantchooria), Chinese empire (colonial possessions), Cochin-China, British India, Beloochistan, Afghanistan, Toorkistan, Siberia, Russia in Europe, Nova Zembla and Spitzbergen, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Scotland and islands, Ireland, Wales, Roman empire (historically), Persia, Turkey in Asia, Turkey in Europe, Greece, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Prussia, Holland, Belgium, England, France, Spain, Portugal, Egypt; end of Roman empire; Arabia, Nubia, Abyssinia, Sahara, Soudan, Senegambia, Guineas; the Congo and its countries, east coast of Africa, Madagascar and islands of Indian Ocean, southern Africa, Atlantic islands, Grahams Land, Patagonia, etc., to the north pole.

Each member of the class was assigned a country, which she divided into topics, reserving for herself the history. The remaining topics were drawn by the other members, who gave carefully prepared papers.

The order of study was as follows: Name or names of country—ancient or modern; astronomical position—latitude and longitude; boundaries; dimensions; general geography, face of country, coasts, mountains, plains, waters, rivers, lakes, geology, islands; climate, temperature, and winds; vegetable production, animals, birds, insects, fish; inhabitants native, race history of them, changes while in country, arts, dress-manufactures, tastes; religion; government, laws, money, name of present magistrate, political divisions, towns, political capital, national forces, army and navy; industries, arts, architecture, sculpture, painting, music; commerce; condition of people morally and mentally, education; history; distinguished men and women; books about the country; language and literature; position in the world; foreign possessions; recent news.

This tour occupied ten years—from March, 1881, to March, 1891. At this memorable period the vice-president, "ever faithful," known otherwise as Mrs. Mary B. Loomis, invited the daughters to her home and provided an

entertainment worthy of the occasion. As souvenir each received a written programme, on the cover of which was painted, by an artist, a gilded sun shining on some significant scene or figure. Telegrams and letters were read from the absent ones. One letter spoke of the class as "representing the old age of youth and the youth of old age." A guest said: "It is quite remarkable that so many ladies, housekeepers, wives, and mothers, should, for ten consecutive years, study thoroughly, quite in the old-world spirit, in busy, bustling, intense Chicago." The divisions of the programme were given to those who had been members all the ten years, and were read at the table. The president, Miss Mary E. Haven, gave a review of the work of the club.

The social life of the class has included social evenings, when the husbands and friends were invited and special programmes given. "Family Life" told of the "Marriages, and of those New to Earth and Sky." "Class Prophecy" gave hope and encouragement to each member. A special feature is the accounts of the members of their summer excursions. There is always some particular interest in each. Several have travelled in the countries of which they have written since their study of them. One took her own papers, read in the club, as her best guide in Switzerland and Paris. Others followed this plan in other countries.

The officers from date of organization are: President, Mary Emerson Haven; vice-president, Ellen Ainsworth Loomis; and secretary, Agnes Valée Sherwood.

Jacksonville Clubs.—The women's clubs of Jacksonville date from the formation of Jacksonville Sorosis in December, 1868. The early ones were generally literary or study clubs.

It was in 1885 that Mrs. Dr. Milligan, who organized Jacksonville Sorosis in December, 1868, called together a number of ladies to consider the advisability of forming a society of practical interest to housekeepers. This resulted in the organization of the Household Science Club, with Mrs. Joseph Bancroft as its president. Mrs. Bancroft is also the president of the Ladies' Education Society, perhaps the most influential of the organizations of women in Jacksonville.

The Monday Conversation Club is modern in its methods. It prohibits papers, and requires that all that is said should be given without notes.

The Wednesday Class is for study purely, and is rather omnivorous in its taste. History, music, politics, and philanthropy, with travel thrown in by way of variety, have furnished varied subjects. This year Ruskin and William Morris are under review.

College Hill and Fortnightly are both literary clubs.

South Side Reading Circle, a study club, and others included in the galaxy, represent specialties, as Wednesday Musical Club, University Exten-



sion Society, Jacksonville Art Association, and the Daughters of the American Revolution.

The Klio Association, although comparatively small, numbering less than one hundred members, wields a powerful influence throughout the city of Chicago. It is identified with many leading philanthropic enterprises, and takes justifiable pride in the fact that no cause having for its object the elevation of humanity has applied to it in vain for aid.

The foundation stones upon which this organization was builded were laid by Mrs. Henry Towne, its first president; Mrs. J. H. Loomis, its first vice-president; Mrs. Eva C. Harrington, its first recording secretary and treasurer; Mrs. J. Hubert Smith and Miss Maud Harvey, charter members.

"Vires acquirit eundo."

The first organization was effected in 1887 for musical and literary purposes, under the name of the Gounod-Emerson Club, with the motto, "Charity toward all." The limit of membership for three years was fifty women, and the meetings were at the homes of the members. Once a month a reception was given for both men and women, which was social in character.

In 1891 the limit was removed and name changed to the Klio, with the motto, "*Vires acquirit eundo.*" A room in the Ely Building was secured and guests admitted to regular meetings.

The first move toward progress was followed by "federation" and removal to more capacious quarters in the Athenæum Building, the club home until 1894. Here were accumulated a small library and some furniture, which, being uninsured, were a total loss to the club through fire, which occurred two days previous to the first biennial of the General Federation, to the officers and delegates of which Klio had announced a reception.

But the club was equal to the emergency. Temporary quarters were secured, and the reception to the visiting delegates and members took place and was a success.

The special energies of the club now began to desire a practical outlet, and the direction this took was the suggestion of Mrs. Jean W. Sherwood, who had seen something of the work of Miss Collins in "Boffins' Bower" in Boston.



MRS. HENRY TOWNE,
First President Klio Association, Illinois



"REST" LUNCH-ROOM, KLIO ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS

parlor, library, lunch-room, sewing-room, boudoir, and toilet-rooms, comfortably and artistically furnished. A circulating library of nearly five hundred volumes adds to the pleasure and profit of its members.

The lunch-room is an attractive feature. No one thing on the menu costs more than five cents. Care is taken to serve the dishes in a dainty and home-like manner.

The best of food is prepared upon strictly hygienic principles.

The "Rest" is open from 8 A.M. until 9 P.M., with a woman physician in attendance from noon to 2 P.M.; services given free of charge. There are evening classes in French, German, physical culture, art, travel, stenography, history, guitar and mandolin, and in drawing, millinery, and dressmaking, which are largely attended. Some of these studies are free, while others cost the members ten cents a lesson. The members of the Klio receive no remuneration for their services in the "Noon-Day Rest," and usually five are in attendance as class leaders, or in some other parts of its work.

The entire management of the "Rest" is vested in the directorate of the Klio Association, consisting of the six general officers and five directors elected annually. This movement has proven a training school to Klio in things spiritual as well as material.

Notwithstanding the time devoted to this enter-

On May 1, 1894, at 4 Monroe Street, the "Noon-Day Rest" was opened to self-supporting women, and upwards of six hundred avail themselves of all the advantages it offers by the payment of twenty-five cents per month for a membership ticket.

The "Rest" consists of a suite of eight rooms—office,



COMMITTEE ROOM, KLIO ASSOCIATION, ILLINOIS

prise, the Klio Association holds regular meetings on the first, third, and fifth Thursdays of each month, from October until May, in Commandery Hall, Masonic Temple, where fine musical and literary programmes are given. In connection with the hall there is a handsome suite of rooms suitable for large receptions.

In January, 1895, the club became incorporated under the name Klio Association. The signers of the act and first Board of Directors were Mrs. Eva H. Baker, Carlotta V. Graham, Laura M. Thomas, Ida W. Morgan, Mary E. Palmer, Mary W. Mowbray, Mary Shumway, Jean Wirt Sherwood, Emma F. Shourds, Susan J. Follett, and Kittie S. Westfall.

The present officers are: Mrs. Ida Woolley Morgan, president; Mrs. Susan J. Follett, first vice-president; Mrs. Hettie Carpenter Morse, second vice-president; Mrs. Harriett P. Nourse, recording secretary; Mrs. Helen Hoyt Hill, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Emily S. Grower, treasurer; directors, Mrs. Della Fay, Mrs. Emma F. Shourds, Mrs. Jean W. Sherwood, Mrs. Jessie L. Grosvenor, Mrs. Harriet Snider.

The club pin is a bar of gold, torch-shaped, representing the torch of knowledge. Upon this are the raised letters K L I O. From this bar is suspended an oval pendant in white enamel, with gold background. The club colors are white and gold. Upon the white enamel is the club flower, the fleur-de-lis, in blue enamel outlined with gold.

It is somewhat noticeable that since the organization of the club in 1887, up to the present time, death has entered the ranks of the organization but once.

The Lawndale Woman's Club, of Millard Avenue, Chicago, was organized in May, 1878, and has girdled the earth in the study of different countries since its beginning.

The founder was Dr. Isabella Hotchkiss, and there are still fourteen of the charter members in its list of about forty studious women.

In connection with this study work, municipal reform and some philanthropic features vary the programmes, and a "founders' day," May 31st, is given over to exercises prepared by the charter members.

In addition to the officers, there are a critic and a corresponding secretary, who is also treasurer.

1896 was given to France and the twelve great paintings which exist in



MRS. H. A. MORGAN,
President Klio Association, Illinois



LACON WOMAN'S CLUB

MRS. ELIZA J. GRIEVES, Founder

MRS. JOSEPHINE ELLSWORTH

MRS. LUCY B. S. FOSTER, President

the world. On the seventeenth anniversary the subjects discussed were: "Value of Organization," "Clubs as Social Factors," "Extension of Club Work," "Are Women Better Wives and Mothers for Belonging to a Club?" (this subject was followed by a lively discussion), "Benefit of Clubs to a Community," "How can we Best Serve our Club and Create the Harmony Necessary to its Useful Existence?"

The officers for that year were: President, Mrs. Frederick Hawkins; vice-president, Mrs. F. J. Suddard; secretary, Mrs. Shipman Fox; corresponding secretary and treasurer, Miss Albro; critic, Mrs. J. H. Porter.

"Neglect not the gift that is in thee." The Lacon Woman's Club was organized in January, 1889, and grew out of a class formed for physical culture, and taught by Miss Julia Leavens, of Chicago. It was through the effort and influence of Mrs. Eliza J. Grievs that this class became a literary club, and she is recognized as its founder. Mrs. Grievs was assisted by Mrs. C. C. Sage, Mrs. M. J. Thomas, Mrs. Mary I. Barnes, Mrs. Sarah D. Green, Mrs. Josephine Ellsworth, and Miss Lucy P. Gaston.

It made slow but steady progress, enjoying its work and its life mainly along the line of self-development until a decided desire was felt to aid the

educational interests of the town by obtaining a free public library. This movement has been crowned with greater success than was anticipated. The Woman's Club is now considered an important factor in the life and well-being of the community, and its power becomes greater for effective work in any direction.



The club belongs to the Illinois State Federation; and its insignia is W. L. C. in monogram. The club motto is, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee." The colors are lavender and white.

The officers for 1896-97 were: Mrs. Lucy B. S. Foster, president; Mrs. Julia E. Edwards, vice-president; Mrs. Carrie A. Everett, recording secretary; Miss Gertrude McClary, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Phoebe A. Hancock, treasurer.

The outline for literary work is very interesting, though the topics suggest discussion as well as study. Among the quotations is this pertinent one: "It is easy finding reasons why other folks should be patient."

The Peoria Woman's Club grew out of the desire of eight thoughtful women to form a society "for mutual improvement and united effort toward the betterment of mankind."

This leading idea found expression on January 20, 1886, and at a second meeting, a week later, twenty-one members enlisted under a constitution and by-laws that had been drafted and were unanimously adopted.

The practical leader of the enterprise, Mrs. Clara P. Bourland, was elected president, and an able board of officers aided to put the club at once upon a permanent footing.

The membership was divided into five departments: Home, education, art and literature, philanthropy, and reform.

"How to Combine Intellectual Culture with Home Duties" was the subject of the first paper prepared and read by Mrs. Bourland.

The second paper was upon "Life as an Educator," and this was followed by a demand from the Educational Committee for quotations on education by each member.

The earliest outgrowth of the club was the foundation of a Protective Agency for Women and Children, an institution that has effected great good and reformed many abuses.



MRS. CLARA P. BOURLAND,
President Peoria Woman's Club, Ill.

Instead of dating itself backward, as so many clubs have done that were not clubs in the beginning, the Peoria Woman's Club dates itself forward, the 12th of May beginning its club year and serving as its anniversary, the months preceding being considered more or less preparatory.

At the first annual meeting the officers and Board of Directors were reelected by ballot; and when the club adjourned for the summer to meet again October 6th, the outlook for increase in membership and growth in real interest and value was a most happy one.

From the beginning the club exerted a broadening influence and grew steadily and helpfully towards awakening interests of the highest order and the cultivation of the beautiful.

Papers upon such subjects as: "Is the Seed Better than the Soil?" "Some of Our Inconsistencies," "Temperance for My Own Sake, and the World in Which I Live," were followed by, or alternated with, papers on art and literature.

In January, 1888, the club engaged Mrs. Abby Sage Richardson for a course of lectures upon English literature.

The topics of that year and of 1889 were of special interest. One of these, "French Salons and Women's Clubs," by Mrs. Bourland, met with enthusiastic appreciation, and "Have Manners Deteriorated?" excited the most animated discussion.

A fine paper also was the one by a teacher of the Peoria High School, "Matthew Arnold, Teacher of Philosophy and Ethics"; papers of the library order, like Shakespeare's "Henry," "Richard III.," were treated most attractively, and helped to develop the desire to delve deeper into the treasure of Shakespeare's genius; the reading of an instructive paper on "Shakespeare's Manifestations of Abnormal Character," by Mrs. Sarah Hackett Stevenson, of Chicago, helping to this end. The organization of a Shakespeare class, long proposed and subsequently conducted at her own residence by the president, was the happy result of this movement, likewise of a history class, whose first object of study was the history of America, followed by that of Spain and France. In 1891 the club had grown to two hundred members. The hotel parlors heretofore used had grown far too small for the membership and occasional guests. The building of a club-house became a matter of urgent necessity. Everybody is aware that desire does not build a house, but it stimulates to action.

The organization of a stock company was taken in hand March, 1891. A building committee was elected, the stock sold, and what had been a cherished wish with most, or appeared as happy optimism, was on a fair way to realization. By January, 1894, the beautiful club-house was completed. The building is situated on the northwest corner of Madison Avenue and Lafayette

Street. The entrance from Madison Avenue opens into a hall from whence a broad flight of stairs leads to the upper story into the music hall, the place of regular meetings. It is an ideal auditorium, beautiful and imposing, suggestive of its purpose in design and decoration, with a spacious stage, superb acoustics, and five hundred seating capacity. The main entrance from Lafayette Street leads into a tiled vestibule opening into the reception hall. The spacious parlor, its serene frescoing, decorations and tasteful arrangement in the style of Louis Quatorze, is the embodiment of coziness, made for *causerie* and conversation. The library, committee rooms, and large, commodious dining-room, kitchen, and accessories are all arranged with a view to comfort and elegance—thanks to the good taste and the generosity of those members who had the means and the will to give.

The formal opening occurred on January 15, 1894, the president delivering the address of dedication. It was to the members a memorable and even solemn occasion, yet full of joyful satisfaction.

From a letter written by the secretary, Mrs. E. H. Plowe, is quoted the following: "All honor is due to Mrs. Bourland, the founder and, above all others, the representative club member as well as president. She was largely instrumental and interested in the founding of the Chicago Woman's Club; has been State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation, and issued the call for a State federation. Our club has been in existence for a little more than ten years, Mrs. Bourland being its founder and president during all of that time.



AUDITORIUM, WOMAN'S CLUB, PEORIA, ILL.

"Our insignia is a pin, a scroll of gold and white enamel holding the words 'Dux femina facta' over the monogram P. W. C. in gold. The club motto is from the 'Œdipus Tyrannus' of Sophocles: 'To help another from what one has, or is, is the most noble deed.' Club colors are white and gold, in which colors the music hall in our club-house is decorated. .

"The most interesting event in the life of our club has been the building of our club-house, which has proved a successful venture, giving the

club a delightful and permanent home. Last club year we celebrated the tenth anniversary of the club as 'founder's day,' a programme being furnished by the original members of the club. This proved so pleasant that a place has been given in the calendar for a similar day. Memorial day is given to special remembrance of club members who have gone before—a day of loving, tender recollection, not gloom.

"Of all the worthy things done by the club this would seem one of the worthiest and most loyal. The papers given by members occur on the second and fourth Mondays of each month, and are under the charge of the chairman of the department from which the essayist is chosen. The remaining



DRAWING-ROOM, WOMAN'S CLUB, PEORIA, ILL.

Mondays are devoted to social meetings or discussions on matters of interest on hand. At these social meetings light refreshments are served. The monthly musicales, given under the direction of the Music Committee and free to club members and their friends, are social and delightful affairs. The club is in the habit of entertaining distinguished visitors to Peoria—literary people, artists, actors of note. We had the great pleasure of entertaining Mrs. Henrotin at a reception and at one of our annual club breakfasts. The first meeting of the State Federation of Illinois Clubs was held in Peoria, the club being charmed to entertain all delegates during the convention, and giving a reception in honor of the delegates.

"All these functions are held in our club-house, and are all sources of pride and pleasure to the club members. The different study classes are worthy of notice, being, of course, free to club members, and affording many opportunities for self-improvement. Under the direction of the Committee on Concerts

and Lectures many fine entertainments are given during the year, the music hall of the club-house being especially good for such use."

The South Side Club, of Chicago, was organized in the spring of 1892 with a membership of seventy-five, Mrs. M. E. A. MacCracken, M.D., president.

The following year it was reorganized for department work under the heads of "home," "art and literature," and "philanthropy," thus enlarging its field and systematizing its work. In June, 1894, it was incorporated under its present name, with Mrs. Mary A. Brooks as president. Mrs. Brooks had, ten years before, with a few congenial friends, set apart an afternoon of each week for the study of literature, which small beginning was the nucleus of the South Side Club.

In the first year of corporate existence the membership increased to two hundred and fifty, and the club became a member of both the General and State Federations.

At first housed in the homes of its members, it has now rooms consisting of an auditorium with a seating capacity of six hundred, large and handsome parlors, a spacious dining-room, cloak and toilet rooms, a well-equipped kitchen, and china closets, the latter amply filled.

Intentionally there is nothing in the constitution and by-laws which precludes the admission of men, it having been the desire of the founder, as it now is of some of the leaders, that the South Side Club shall ultimately become a club of men and women.

The initiation fee of five dollars, and annual dues of five dollars from each member, serve to finance the club under the management of the Board of Directors, and provide for the partial support of the Protective Agency for Women and Children, the Model Lodging House for Destitute Women, a work-room in the stock yards district, a course of lectures upon art or literature, various social functions, and the necessary administration of the affairs of the club.

The Committee on Art and Literature supply op-



PRESIDENT'S ROOM IN WOMAN'S CLUB, PEORIA, ILL.

portunities for culture, and two other departments take up practical work in various directions, especially in parliamentary law, of which the president, Mrs. J. R. Shattock, is the leader.

The Round Table is a section of the home department, its work being the study and application of the relation which should exist in the education of the child between parent and teacher. A musical section, styled the Treble Clef, affords much pleasure to the members of the club. The club has had a "bird" day and "Lincoln" day, also "reciprocity" day and a symposium of charities. Its idea of reciprocity was to welcome the *membership* of other clubs, not officers alone, and have no papers.

Ranking with the strongest clubs of the city, the South Side Club stands ready to coöperate with advanced movements, demonstrating the value of women's clubs in general as a factor in the civilization and development of the last half of the nineteenth century.

Its president, Mrs. J. R. Shattock, was a member of the Board of Lady Managers for the World's Fair, is a member of the Board of Managers of the Woman's Club of Chicago, is one of the women trustees of Hillsdale College, Michigan, from which she graduated, and is chairman of the Republican Women's Central Committee. Mrs. Shattock was made chairman of the Ways and Means Committee at the third biennial of the General Federation at Louisville, and has served in many other administrative capacities.

River Forest Woman's Club.—It was the aim of the founders of the River Forest Woman's Club to make it a broad, inclusive club, unlimited as "*More light.*" to membership, and this policy has been maintained. It was organized May 24, 1894, with sixty charter members, and at the present time it numbers seventy-seven active workers.

Desiring to have the regular work of the club begin in a home of its own, it was incorporated August 1, 1894, and soon after purchased the recently vacated Presbyterian church building, which, with a few alterations, made a modest and comfortable club home. Here the first regular meeting was held in September of that year.

It is a department club, with three divisions of work—educational, philanthropic, and municipal reform.

The line of study has embraced English history, literature, art, civil government, and the science of motherhood. Much practical work has been done also in philanthropy and municipal reform.

The club has had a mother's class from the start, the members of which were instrumental in establishing a kindergarten, and later succeeded in having it made a part of the public school system. Last year it was instrumental in placing two of its members on the Board of Education.

In May, 1895, the club joined the Illinois State Federation, and became



RIVER FOREST WOMAN'S CLUB

MRS. FLORENCE ALLIN INGALLS, First President

MRS. MARY M. ODELL

MRS. CORA B. J. WALBANK

a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs March 27, 1896, sending a delegate to the biennial meeting at Louisville, Ky.

The colors of the club are green and gold, emblematic of truth, knowledge, and good fellowship; the club flower is the rose, emblematic of love, and the club pin embraces these symbols.

The motto of the club is "More light." Its officers, 1897-98, are: President, Louise A. Struble; vice-president, Helen N. Jackson; corresponding secretary, Alice M. Titus; recording secretary, Mary P. Milliken; treasurer, Anna W. Collins.

The outline of work for the year is miscellaneous, but includes kindergarten work, municipal reform, women in the professions, and the different kinds of educational institutions. "Thackeray" and "George Eliot" are the subjects of lectures, and in February Mrs. Wiles, the president of the Illinois Federation, lectures before the educational department. Two interesting subjects for mothers are assigned to April: "How to Spend the Summer with your Children in the City," "How to Spend the Summer with your Children in the Country."



MRS. MARY H. WILMARTH,
Society Physical Culture, Chicago, Ill.

The Society for the Promotion of Physical Culture and Correct Dress was formed in Chicago in 1888.

The possibilities open to such a society first presented themselves to its organizers at a lecture given by Annie Jenness-Miller.

Before the audience dispersed, an invitation was given to those interested in the effort to secure "improved dress" to enroll themselves, and over sixty names were obtained.

Within a year the membership increased to three hundred. For a few years the society was an auxiliary of the Chicago Woman's Club. The meetings have been held monthly, from October to June inclusive, and the following are among the subjects which have been discussed:

"A Glance at Former Movements towards Improved Dress for Women," "Beauty without Cosmetics," "Classic and Proportionate Sizes and Measurements," "Beauty the Expression of the Highest Human Quality," "Relation of Dress to Physical and Spiritual Beauty," "The Doctors of the Future," "Are Women Degenerating Physically?"

The first president, an enthusiastic worker, had served but a few months, when she was removed by death.

Mrs. Mary H. Wilmarth was elected to the vacancy, and served the society faithfully for several years. Her calm judgment and steadfast belief in the principles adopted by the society were strong factors in its growth and popularity.

Mrs. Frances M. Steele, who often styled herself the "grandmother of the club," was an earnest and helpful member during her life.

The principles upon which the society was built have been fostered by her throughout her life, and she derived no little satisfaction from the realization that she was no longer a solitary guard over what she considered to be among the essentials to the well-being of women.

Even the most condensed history of the club would be incomplete without a mention



MRS. ANNIE W. JOHNSON,
Society Physical Culture, Chicago, Ill.

of the work done by one of its members, Mrs. Kate H. Watson. Mrs. Watson has made a practical study of ornamentation, fabrics, color, and form, dressing a few fortunate women in gowns the work of her own hands, thus pointing the way to that ideal condition when the soul of the worker will enter into her work, and dress will be one of the fine arts. Some of her handiwork is the most hopeful sign now before us that the work of this society is founded on genuine art principles, and will therefore be enduring.

It has been deemed wise to change the form of the organization, and instead of maintaining a large central society, to gradually introduce the study of physical culture and correct dress into all the department clubs in the city and suburbs. This work is now progressing under the direction of a standing committee, of which Mrs. Annie W. Johnson is permanent chairman.

These different departments will be united in a federation, to meet annually, which will in turn belong to the national federation.

The object of these federated societies will continue to be mutual help in learning the highest standards of physical development, and mutual counsel towards realizing those standards in practical life; and its watchword will ever be health, comfort, and beauty in dress.

The Woman's Club and Library Association, of Cairo, was founded in



1875 for the avowed purpose of establishing a free library and reading-room in the city of Cairo, as well as for the intellectual improvement of its members. In 1884 one of its charter members and earliest and most steadfast friends, Mrs. Anna E. Safford, built and donated to the city, in memory of her husband, a beautiful and costly structure, to be known as the A. B. Safford Memorial Library.

The building was specially arranged for the housing of the fine public library which had been collected by the persistent efforts of the Woman's Club, and contained, in addition to the library and reading-rooms, with space for twenty thousand volumes, a reference room, complete club-rooms, a museum, and fine lecture hall.

On the completion of this building the Woman's Club presented the library to the city, and also some valuable sculptures purchased as World's Fair souvenirs.

The city has since that time provided for the maintenance of the library, but the club still exercises a guardianship over it, five of the nine directors of the library board being women members of the club, as provided in the deed of gift.

The club holds semi-monthly meetings in its beautiful rooms, and has



MRS. ISABELLA L. CANDEE,
President Cairo Woman's Club,
First President Illinois Federation Women's
Clubs

pursued valuable courses in literature, art, history, science, law, music, and domestic economy.

Mrs. Isabella Laning Candee, who was a member of the Board of Lady Managers for the Columbian Exposition, and is a member of the National League of Mineral Painters, was for many years the able and honored president of this association, and was the first president of the Illinois State Federation.

Mrs. Candee is a native of Rockford, Ill., and in addition to a charming personality, possesses that inspiring energy which carries enterprises to successful completion. Her personal exhibit of decorative work in underglazed china painting and wood carving obtained a distinctive award at the World's Fair; and it is only her many-sided interests which have prevented her

from being more widely known as a painter.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. W. N. Butler; vice-president, Mrs. S. White; secretary, Miss E. Lansdon; treasurer, Mrs. J. W. Wenger.

The date of the anniversary of the club is also that of the birthday of Mr. Safford, and is regularly observed by appropriate exercises and beautiful decorations of flowers, palms and smilax, while fine music and literary exercises make up an entertainment which is thronged by interested and appreciative friends. The Woman's Club is a power in the moral sentiment of the community, having helped to bring about early closing of business houses and other beneficial and helpful results in civic affairs.

The West End Woman's Club, of Chicago, was incorporated December, 1892, the



WOMAN'S CLUB ROOM IN LIBRARY BUILDING, CAIRO, ILL.



LECTURE-ROOM IN WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE AND PUBLIC LIBRARY, CAIRO, ILL.

year it was born. Its object, "mutual counsel and entertainment; literary, musical, educational, and philanthropic work, and social and municipal reform." The signers of the act and representative members "Not for self, but for all." were: Joan Chalmers, Sarah M. Clark, Jane C. Clark, Annie C. Bushnell, Agnes V. Sherwood, Augusta R. Fitz-Simons, M. Ellen Loomis, Elizabeth Greenlee, Evelyn A. Frake, Eliza A. Brower, Harriet A. McLaren, and Adeline B. Kane. These ladies became the Board of Directors for the first year. The club at once acquired a large membership, and was organized in departments—philanthropic, executive, educational, and municipal.

The Board of Directors has entire charge of the affairs of the club. It elects all members, fills all vacancies, audits all expenses. It also appoints the chairmen of all committees, each chairman selecting the members of her own committee, subject to approval by the board. The departments have a membership of their own, elect their own officers, establish their own quorum, and appoint a member who serves on the Nominating Committee for the annual election.

The philanthropic department has the largest membership; the educational second, and the municipal third. The whole membership is nearly three hundred women. The auxiliaries to the club are the West End Club Chorus and the Model Workshop and Lodging House Association. The club has also a representative in the Bureau of Associated Charities. The literary



WEST END WOMAN'S CLUB, CHICAGO

MRS. ALSON E. CLARK, Founder

MRS. WM. J. CHALMERS, First President

MRS. G. SHERWOOD, Ex-President

work is done by essay, the subject usually represented by four papers. There is an evening reception in January, a "daughters'" day in December. The first day of the club year, the first of October, is "president's" day.

"Daughters'" day is a red-letter day and of annual occurrence. It was instituted by Mrs. A. E. Clark, and brings together a large number of the most beautiful and refined young women of Chicago. On this occasion they are fêted and especial talent employed to entertain them. Roses are the decorative flower, and the girl receives her initiation into club life through an entrancing medium.

The West End has given two magnificent art exhibitions and receptions to local talent. The Illinois Club lend their gallery for this annual entertainment, the second one of which occurred on February 19, 1897. Pictures and statuary, all by local artists, filled the art galleries, while the floral decorations were tastefully blended with the colors of the West End Woman's Club. One thousand invitations were responded to with hardly an exception, and the programme of talks and music was sandwiched between all that is most charming to the eye and mind. Mrs. Sherwood, the president of the club, made a felicitous address. Lorado Taft spoke on the present status of sculp-

ture and painting in Chicago, and Charles Francis Browne made a speech on the outlook for artists. Mrs. Sherwood closed the programme with some earnest remarks about the beauties revealed through proper instruction in art, and then pointed out the special points to be studied in some of the pictures hanging on the wall.

The first president of the club was Mrs. W. J. Chalmers. Her successors were Mrs. A. E. Clark, Mrs. George Sherwood, and Mrs. Helen M. Scott.

The first free kindergarten in Chicago public schools was established through the efforts of this club. It was also instrumental in introducing the trained nurse in the contagious ward of the County Hospital. For five years from forty to sixty women have been given employment, and ninety families enrolled on a list and personally visited and aided. The club furnishes two rooms at the Model Lodging House and contributes monthly to its support. It also forwarded the movement of boulevarding Jackson Street from the river to the lake front.

It entertained the General Federation at the finest reception given to that body during the congresses of 1893, and has maintained classes in parliamentary law, current events, and psycho-physical culture, the results of which are evident in a superb body of women, ready and equal to any demand made upon them.

The West End was federated February, 1893, and became a member of the Illinois State Federation in 1895. Its motto is, "Not for self, but for all," and its decorative flower the rose. Its officers for 1897-98 are: President, Helen G. Scott; first vice-president, Ellen C. Brownell; recording secretary, Mary A. Downs; corresponding secretary, Eugenia F. Fulton; treasurer, Harriet McLaren.

The Woman's Club, of La Grange, was the outcome of a magazine class held at the home of Mrs. Mary B. Lyman. Out of this class a history class was formed, and from this grew the present Woman's Club. Mrs. Lyman was the chairman of the committee appointed to draft the constitution, and was unanimously elected the first president. Mrs. Lyman was succeeded by Mrs. Caroline C. Corey, and it was during Mrs. Corey's term of office that the foundation of the library was laid by a "book social." At this reception each member was requested to bring a book to donate as a nucleus for the library of the future.



MRS. M. B. LYMAN,
First President Woman's Club of La
Grange, Ill.

A "poets' day" was also instituted, which has proved a delightful feature. Among the poets, the club has celebrated James Russell Lowell, Eugene Field, and others. Mrs. Martha Howe Davidson succeeded Mrs. Corey, serving the club well for two years. Three classes have grown out of the club work—the home class, the art class, and a class in geography. The purpose of this last is hardly expressed by its title; its subject for 1897 was "The Animal and Vegetable Life of North and South America," beginning with a history of botany and ending with the relation of plant and animal life to manufacture and commerce. The home class work consists of original papers and discussions upon home subjects; and the work of the art class has taken the story of ancient Egypt as represented in its sculptures and stones. Out of the literature department has grown a review class; out of the Bible department, a Bible class; and out of the philanthropy department, a philanthropic class, which is making a study of the life and conditions of dependent and working children.

The president is Mrs. C. P. Perkins, and the general meetings of the club are monthly, on first Tuesdays of each month, except the three devoted to the summer recess. The membership is about one hundred and fifty, grown from a charter membership of twenty-five. The date of organization was June 15, 1892. The club joined the General Federation in May, 1893, and allied itself with the State federation January, 1895.

The members subscribe to the following pledge: "I consider my membership in the Woman's Club of La Grange a helpful and ennobling factor in my life; and pledge my support and loyalty to the club, its work and its reputation."

The Woman's Club, of Henry, was called together and an organization effected on June 4, 1892, by its present president, Mrs. Laura A. Kline. Mrs. Kline's reputation for literary culture and a high ideal of character eminently fitted her for the position of president of a literary club.

The object, however, was not exclusively intellectual advancement. The club was at once organized under committees representing education, art and literature, home, philanthropy, and reform. Its work has always been thoughtful and suggestive. "Ethics of Education," "Silent Forces," "Is Genius Necessary to Success?" "The Literature of the Past," "Making of History," "Are the Teachings of the Home or the School Most Important?" "Is Criticism a Help or a Hindrance?" and "The Influence of Art upon Home Life" are some of the topics which have interested and excited animated discussion in this club of fifty thoughtful women.

Mrs. Laura A. Kline has remained the president, and among the active members and officers have been Mrs. M. H. Paskell, Mrs. M. P. Fyffe, Mrs.

M. L. Hildebrant, Mrs. M. N. White, Mrs. B. Potter, Mrs. H. Finney, and Julia Ruggles.

The social side of the club has been one of its most charming features. No reception was held the first year, owing to the World's Fair. The first annual reception was held in May, 1894. A few weeks later the club entertained the Woman's Literary Club of Lacon.

In the month of April of the same year it applied for and was admitted into membership with the General Federation of Women's Clubs. During the holidays a reception was given the club by the president at her pleasant home. The second annual reception was held in June, 1895. In January the club was admitted into the State Federation of Illinois. The fourth year the department of science was added to the former work. The club has come to be one of the intellectual and social necessities of the community. The work still progresses with equal earnestness and enthusiasm, the members carrying out the sentiment of their mottoes, "*Vestigia nulla retrorsum*" and "Each for all, all for each."

The Woman's Club, of Irving Park, started with a little group of ladies invited by Mrs. Truman G. Palmer to meet at her home on the afternoon of March 13, 1888, and form a reading class for mutual improvement. Mrs. J. J. Cook was associated with Mrs. Palmer in the formation of the class, which consisted at first of nine members, and was later called the Historical Reading Class.

The early work was English and American history and literature. Papers were prepared and discussed through informal conversation. A great deal of attention was, however, paid to accuracy in facts, style, and pronunciation, one of the best informed members acting as critic.

In 1892 the celebration of the first biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs in Chicago stimulated the Historical Class to more formal organization, and it became the Woman's Club of Irving Park. Up to this time the membership had been limited. This restriction was removed, and later, with increased membership, several departments of work were added to the original studies in history and literature. These now embrace household economics, science, child study, and civics.

The entrance fee of the Irving Park Club is two dollars. The meetings are held fortnightly, from October to June. The annual dues are two dollars.



MRS. LAURA A. KLINE,
President Woman's Club, Henry, Ill.

An annual reception celebrates the close of the club year, and to this gentlemen are invited. December 27th is "children's day," and Easter is also celebrated by a luncheon and some form of entertainment. This year Mrs. Loraine Immen gives a lecture on Shakespeare, and there will be Shakespearean readings and pictures.

The club has entertained many distinguished women, and has created a paid-up scholarship for a child in the Chicago Commons. It is a member of both State and General Federations, and has now a membership of seventy-one active women and twenty associate. The president is Mrs. O. H. McConaughey.

The Wildwood Club was organized in April, 1891, its first object to provide a summer home in which self-supporting girls could spend their summer vacation. The active members are working girls; the associate members are supposed to be women of wealth and leisure, who contribute to the fund by paying ten dollars per year, and aid in making the social entertainments varied and attractive. Four of the associate members are the hostesses for each summer month, who live at the club-house, preside at the table, and aid a competent housekeeper in securing for the girls a happy holiday. Here from three to four hundred girls spend their vacations of from one to four weeks, paying for their board from \$2.50 to \$3.50 per week.

The club-house, obtained in 1892, had been a private residence, with spacious grounds extending to the shores of Lake Michigan. The financial results show that the receipts from board pay all expenses except rent.

STATE FEDERATION IN ILLINOIS

The report of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Clara M. J. Farson, at the first annual meeting held in Peoria, October 10 and 11, 1895, says: "The subject of State federation had been considered for a long time by the club women of Illinois. In April, 1894, the Chicago Woman's Club, through its corresponding secretary, Mrs. Kate Huddleston, then chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, called a meeting of the federated clubs of Cook County. Delegates were sent from all of these clubs. A largely attended meeting was held both afternoon and evening. So much interest was shown that when the invitation of Mrs. Clara Bourland, president of the Peoria Woman's Club, and the successor as chairman of State correspondence to Mrs. Huddleston, was received to attend a meeting of the women's clubs of Illinois at Chicago, October 11, 1894, for the distinct purpose of organizing a State federation, no doubt of the desirability or success of the movement was felt."

The call was emphasized by an inspiring letter from the president of the General Federation, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, and the convention was held with such success that a State federation was organized with the usual officers and representative vice-presidents from eighteen out of the twenty-four congressional districts. "We have now in the association seventy-nine clubs, and many others have indicated their intention to join us. I have not been able to ascertain the exact number of women this brings us in touch with, but think from 8,000 to 10,000. Our largest club, the Chicago Woman's Club, has 650 members; the smallest club reported has 20 members. We have many clubs numbering from 150 to 300.

"We have many clubs that do literary work entirely, many that are doing practical and literary work combined. The programmes of work sent by the clubs are most interesting. Topics of the day, all domestic affairs, all matters of history and travel, are discussed. We have clubs that have founded libraries, clubs that have established hospitals, clubs that care for destitute children. In fact, I could not mention any good work that the women of this federation are not engaged in. I think the tendency of the club movement is to reach out into the work of the world and be less confined to work that is for culture alone."

The first annual convention was called to order October 10th by the State president, Mrs. Isabella Laning Candee, and received a cordial welcome from the Peoria Woman's Club, through the president, Mrs. Clara P. Bourland.

Mrs. Candee responded on behalf of the visiting delegates. Telegrams were read from Mrs. Henrotin; Mrs. Ashley, of Colorado, and Friends in Council, of Quincy. Mrs. Mumford, of Philadelphia, was then introduced, also Mrs. Moore, of St. Louis, corresponding secretary of the General Federation, and Mrs. Lucy L. Flower, of Chicago, who received a warm welcome.

After the reports of the secretaries and treasurer had been read and accepted, two-minute reports were called for and given by twenty clubs, showing the aim and extent of their work. These were followed by a report from the chairman of the committee to which had been referred the selection of a State flower and badge for the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs. This matter was referred for future consideration.

The meeting adjourned after the chair had named as a nominating committee, Mrs. J. D. Harvey, Chicago; Miss Post, Galesburg; Mrs. Wheeler, Springfield; Mrs. Barbour, Pekin; Mrs. John Frances, Peoria; Mrs. Witkowski, Chicago; Mrs. Julia Miller Dunné, Moline; Mrs. Frances Owens, Woodlawn, Chicago.

The afternoon programme included a paper by Mrs. Lyndon W. Bates, of the Friday Club, Chicago, on "The Aims and Methods of Literary Clubs;"

"The Evolution of the Study Class," by Mrs. Marcia L. Gould, and "The Practical Results of Club Life," by Mrs. H. G. Solomon, president of the National Council of Jewish Women.

Ten minutes were given to the discussion of some of the practical suggestions in Mrs. Gould's address, which was participated in by Mrs. Shattuck, Mrs. Mumford, Miss Head, Miss LeBaron, Miss McDowell.

The evening session was specially interesting. It was called to order by the State president, Mrs. Isabella Laning Candee, who introduced Mrs. Mary E. Mumford. Mrs. Mumford's address on "Some Practical Work in Civics" described the work of the Civic Club in Philadelphia, and alluded to the town and village improvement work of Geneva, Ill., of which Mrs. Julia P. Harvey, the vice-president of the General Federation in 1890, had been an active promoter.

"The Slums and the State" was the subject of a paper by Mrs. J. M. Dunné, of Moline; "Public Schools and Citizenship," by Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles of the School Board, Freeport. Mrs. Wiles followed her paper by a series of resolutions that were made a special order of business after the report of the Nominating Committee on the following morning.

A large and interested audience of delegates and visiting members gathered on the morning of October 11th, and was called to order by the State president. The chairman of the Nominating Committee, Mrs. J. P. Harvey, reported two tickets.

As the result of the ballot the following officers were declared elected:

President, Mrs. Isabella Laning Candee, Cairo Woman's Club; recording secretary, Miss LeBaron, Elgin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Clara M. J. Farson, Chicago Woman's Club; treasurer, Mrs. Mary E. Haworth, Decatur; vice-presidents—first congressional district, Jane Addams, Hull House, Chicago; second congressional district, Hannah G. Solomon, Chicago; third congressional district, Mrs. James E. Eagle, Chicago; fourth congressional district, Mrs. Lucy Flower, Chicago; fifth congressional district, Mrs. F. P. Richardson, Chicago; sixth congressional district, Mrs. W. J. Chalmers, Chicago; seventh congressional district, Mrs. F. H. Davidson, La Grange; eighth congressional district, Mrs. J. S. Wilcox, Elgin; ninth congressional district, Mrs. Alice B. Wiles, Freeport; tenth congressional district, Mrs. E. B. Frost, Galesburg; eleventh congressional district, Miss Julia Griggs, Streator; twelfth congressional district, Miss Jane Head, Danville; thirteenth congressional district, Mrs. S. T. Busey, Champaign; fourteenth congressional district, Mrs. Virginia Bash, Peoria; fifteenth congressional district, Mrs. Anna L. Parker, Quincy; sixteenth congressional district, Mrs. Palmer Matthews, Carlinville; seventeenth congressional district, Mrs. James Patton, Springfield; eighteenth congressional district, nineteenth congressional



PARLOR OF JANE CLUB, HULL HOUSE, CHICAGO
(Named for Miss Jane Addams, of Hull House)

district, Mrs. Ada Kepley, Effingham; twentieth congressional district, twenty-first congressional district, twenty-second congressional district, Mrs. Rittenhouse, Cairo.

Mrs. Solomon presented the resolutions introduced by Mrs. Wiles and made the special order of business. These covered the following points:

First—The necessity of the compulsory education law.

Second—The deficiencies of our public school system.

Third—The necessity of better legal protection for wage-earning children.

After some discussion these were adopted.

The afternoon session was called to order by Mrs. Isabella Laning Candee, who thanked the delegates warmly for her reelection, and declared the officers duly installed and qualified to enter upon their duties for the coming year.

Very interesting and suggestive papers were read on the "Education of the Unfit," by Miss Julia Lathrop, of the State Board of Charities; "Education as a Preventive of Crime and Pauperism," by Mrs. L. Flower, trustee of the Illinois State University. A letter relating to the work of the State University was read by Mrs. Flower, from Dr. Julia Holmes Smith. The

chairman of the Reciprocity Committee, Mrs. Virginia Bash, submitted the following recommendations:

1. The secretary of the State Federation shall furnish each club in the federation with a list of all the clubs connected with that body.
2. That each club having a printed programme shall furnish a copy of the same to all other clubs on that list.
3. That any club desiring a paper upon a given topic can apply either to the secretary of the club or directly to the essayist.
4. That any club inviting an essayist or speaker to appear before it shall provide for the expenses of such essayist or speaker.
5. That membership in any club of the federation shall entitle the holder to admission in any other federated club, upon presentation of her membership ticket to the secretary of that club.

Mrs. Virginia Bash reported, under five heads—history, literature, philosophy and science, philanthropy, and miscellaneous—schemes of work for the use of local clubs.

All the sessions were held in the beautiful club-rooms of the Woman's Club of Peoria, and a cordial vote of thanks was offered for the hospitality and many acts of attention received by the visiting delegates from the club-women and their friends. A vote of thanks was also offered to the Music Committee and its chairman.

In her report at the second biennial of the General Federation, in 1894, the then State chairman for Illinois, Mrs. Kate G. Huddleston, said: "Before proceeding with my report of club work, I desire to say a word in regard to direct benefits of federation, an instance of which occurred during the past winter (1893).

"While the daily press contained columns of news items regarding the distress of the poor owing to the great depression in financial circles all over the country, the Chicago Woman's Club decided to organize a relief bureau, to directly aid women and children. To this end twenty-six clubs in the city of Chicago, belonging to this State Federation, were notified and invited to assist, which resulted in an immediate and concerted movement, under the title of 'The Women's Clubs Emergency Association.' Clubs all over the State became interested, and many sent pecuniary aid. Many of these clubs were distinctly literary in their work, but this being an emergency, they responded fraternally to the call, and gave most efficient assistance during the winter, though they did not allow this work to interfere in the slightest degree with the regular progress of the clubs.

"When the emergency work was completed an invitation was extended to the federated clubs in Chicago to meet and compare notes on the industrial situation as seen by them during the winter. In response to this, two meet-

ings were held April 23d; the first devoted to reports of the practical work of the various clubs during the winter, the second to ten-minute papers on the 'Relation of Women to Modern Industrial Conditions.' This topic was considered under five captions, namely, domestic, social, legal, political, and economic, and the divergence of views presented on the subject made the meeting one of great public interest.

"One fact worthy of notice is that many clubs, while progressing and enlarging in many ways, still pursue the same general line of study and work, showing their initial club idea to be a serious and thoughtful one."

The second annual meeting of the Illinois Federation was held on October 7, 8, and 9, 1896, in the hall of representatives of the State capitol by invitation of the Springfield Woman's Club. The three days' sessions were preceded by a meeting of the Board of Directors on Tuesday afternoon, and the presentation of credentials by a large gathering of delegates on Wednesday morning.

A cordial welcome was given by Mrs. James Patton, president of the Springfield Woman's Club, and the response, and an address, by Mrs. I. L. Candee, the president of the State federation.

The report of the Committee on Credentials, calling of the roll, reports of general officers, and other routine business occupied the morning. The afternoon of Wednesday was devoted to an address on the "History of Compulsory Education in Illinois," by Mrs. G. I. Bronson, of the Freeport Woman's Club. The report of the Committee on Education followed; Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles, chairman.

Mrs. L. B. McMurry spoke upon the purpose of nature study in elementary schools, and Miss Frances Le Baron upon the relation of public libraries to public schools. A general and most interesting discussion followed. On Wednesday evening a reception was given to delegates and visiting club members at the executive mansion by Governor and Mrs. Altgeld.

Thursday morning was given to the revision of the by-laws, and reports of local clubs. "Some club problems" occupied the afternoon. These were presented from three points of view. First, "What is the Legitimate Work of the Woman's Club?" by Mrs. A. F. Gynan, of Atlantis, of Quincy; "Shall Clubs be Limited in Number?" and "Is the Department Club the Most Effective Form of the Woman's Club?" A general discussion followed these



MRS. ALICE BRADFORD WILES,
Pres. Illinois Federation Women's Clubs

papers. Thursday evening was made memorable by a greeting from Governor Altgeld to the women of Illinois, and an address upon the "Value of Federation," by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin. The closing address was by Miss Starr, of Hull House, Chicago, on the "Relation of Art to Life."

The report of the Nominating Committee on Friday morning was followed by the election of officers, which resulted in the choice of Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles, president; Mrs. Isabella Laning Candee, vice-president-at-large. The other officers were: Recording secretary, Mrs. Elgin Hays Ray, Social Science Club, Champaign; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Marc Sherwood, West End Woman's Club, Chicago; treasurer, Mrs. Mary E. Haworth, Decatur Woman's Club. Mrs. Frederick A. Smith, Chicago, was made chairman of the Programme Committee; Miss Frances Le Baron, chairman of Committee on Education, and Mrs. C. J. Richardson, chairman of Committee on Philanthropy.

Friday afternoon closed the sessions of a large, brilliant, and most inspiring convention. The presentation of new officers was made by the retiring president, Mrs. Candee, who also gave a brief farewell address. A visit of the delegates to the Lincoln monument finished the day, and the State federation adjourned.

The third annual meeting was held at the State Street Presbyterian Church, Jacksonville, October 20, 21, and 22, 1897. Twelve women's organizations participated in the invitation; and a large assemblage gathered in the church parlors on the morning of the first day to hear the welcoming words of Mrs. Joseph Bancroft, president of the Ladies' Education Society, of Jacksonville, and the annual address of the president of the federation, Mrs. Alice Bradford Wiles.

Jacksonville is called the "Western Athens." It is famous for its culture and progressive spirit—progressive in the true sense. The note was struck at once in Mrs. Bancroft's address of welcome, and received a fitting response from the State president. Mrs. Wiles said, among other things, "The general purpose of the Illinois Federation of Women's Clubs stands for the ministry of culture in the home, in the school, and in social life. True culture does not mean knowledge alone, but a wisdom which remains the fruit of knowledge when the latter may have fled; a wisdom gained not only from books but from life, which may be found in the cottage or the palace, in the busy market place or the silent forest; a wisdom tempered by courtesy no less quick to seize opportunity than eager to give it to others; wisdom in which thought is no less profound because open to sympathy."

Among the results of State federated life, Mrs. Wiles enumerated "the founding of public libraries under a fine Illinois law, of libraries in public schools, and travelling libraries in country schools; and for use of clubs the

aid given in selecting good books for city, school, and Sunday-school libraries, and in banishing worthless books from the shelves.

"Fundamental and far-reaching work has been done in securing good literature for free reading-rooms, free lectures, and concerts, or at very low cost; instruction in household economics; the introduction of flowers and of reproductions of works of art in schools, hospitals, and orphan asylums; the free exhibitions of fine arts; the circulation from house to house, or from city to city, of art collections, and the opening of churches for free organ concerts.

"These seeds of growth are, through our organization, scattered to the four corners of Illinois. The young life continues to be nourished and supported, until it can give back to us strength and inspiration, which shall make us ever the source of new power, the guide and hope of the women of the State who recognize in moral force the great and only certain instrument for all reform."

The report of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Sherwood, showed the present number of clubs to be 160, representing a membership of fifteen thousand women.

The reports from officers and chairmen of committees were of great interest. The Committee on Credentials reported 108 clubs, represented by 213 delegates.

The display of club insignia was not the least interesting part of the spectacle, as nearly every woman represented two or more clubs. There were present just two or three times as many badges as there were women. First was the blue and silver symbol of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, with its rising sun; the golden "S" of Sorosis; the white and yellow of the Monday Conversation; the royal purple of the Household Science; scarlet of the Wednesday Class, of Jacksonville; Every Wednesday Club, of Springfield, white and gold, with a watch dial from letters "E. W. C."; Chicago Woman's Club, and so on, *ad infinitum*. All combined to make a glowing and diversified picture.

Miss Frances Le Baron, of Elgin, chairman of Committee on Education, made a fine report upon "Educational Problems as Seen through Women's Clubs of Illinois." This paper was afterwards printed for general distribution. Mrs. Anna L. Parker, of Quincy, read an excellent paper upon "Ideals in Education." Mrs. Mary C. Bourland, of Pontiac, spoke on "Relation of Child Study to the Public Kindergarten," and "Education as a Moral Factor" was the theme of a fine paper by Mrs. Gertrude B. Blackwelder, of Morgan Park.

These addresses were discussed, and closed by Mrs. Madden, of the Illinois Woman's Press Association, who described the work done in the distribution of good literature.

Later papers were upon "The Needs of Dependent Children," by Mrs. J. W. Patton, who closed with the following resolutions, which were adopted :

Whereas, The State of Illinois makes no mandatory legal provision for State rescue, support, and education of children not subjects for reformatories, who are deprived of care by reason of poverty, illness, or death of their parents, or who by the vicious lives of their natural guardians are made worse than homeless, or for those children living in the degrading and corrupting influence of almshouses; and

Whereas, The vital necessity for such legal provision is proving more apparent year by year, and children who might be saved to a useful life become criminals and a menace to society; and

Whereas, The State Federation of Women's Clubs stands for all that tends to the highest interest of the State and the future welfare of the children, be it

Resolved, That the Illinois State Federation of Women's Clubs, through their Philanthropic Committee, should endeavor to create a public sentiment towards the enactment of a law providing for the State rescue, support, and education of dependent neglected children; and be it further

Resolved, That said Philanthropic Committee be instructed to prepare a memorial to the next Legislature, urging the passage of a bill for the care of dependent children not criminal or delinquents; and be it further

Resolved, That the clubs of the federation be requested to urge the proposed bill, and to use all possible honorable and dignified means to secure the passage of such bill.

"Influence of Clubs in Civil Life" was the subject of an address by Mrs. Clara P. Bourland, of Peoria. She took high moral ground in public affairs and pleaded for purity in politics, civil service, and coöperation of women in bringing about these great reforms.

Mrs. C. J. Richardson, of the Princeton Woman's Club, presented the report of the Committee on Philanthropy. The care of incurable insane was a prominent feature, as well as feeble-minded epileptics.

Mrs. J. C. Barlow, of Streator, gave the report of Associated Charities. She especially attacked indiscriminate almsgiving, and especially to beggars who have with them deformed children. She recommended medical treatment for the child and arrest of the mother, so that the common practice of producing these wretched little ones to order might be stopped.

Miss Ada C. Sweet, of Chicago, made a strong plea for birds, and Miss Katherine Sharp, professor of library economy and director of the State library school at the University of Illinois, spoke on "Travelling Libraries in Country Towns." She said there was book poverty in the farming districts

of Illinois, and suggested that the women's clubs could do much to provide literature to those who were badly in need of it.

Mrs. Lutz read the report of the committee to further the interests of women at the University of Illinois. She told of the work of endeavoring to secure an appropriation of \$70,000 for a woman's building.

Mrs. Lucy L. Flower, trustee of Illinois University, presented the subject of compulsory education. The reason of the failure of the bill was lack of public opinion. Politicians are afraid of it, and it must be taken from politics. To rear good citizens they should be able to read the English language.

The report of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution was made by Mrs. Mary E. Haworth, of Decatur, and excited lively discussion. The question of admitting clubs with "men in them" was finally decided in their favor. Four years was made the limit of office in the Executive Board, and the entrance and annual dues were increased to three dollars.

The final report of the Credentials Committee showed 114 clubs in attendance, represented by 235 delegates.

On behalf of the Arché Club, of Chicago, Mrs. Millspaugh offered a resolution that a committee on art be appointed, and moved its adoption. Mrs. Edwards, of the Chicago Woman's Club, moved to amend by adding music. The motion passed.

The report of the Nominating Committee was made by Mrs. S. T. Busey, of Urbana, and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Robert Hall Wiles, Chicago; vice-president-at-large, Mrs. Anna C. Parker, Quincy; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Virginia Bash, Peoria; recording secretary, Mrs. Frederick Le Roy, Streator; treasurer, Mrs. Maria Fairbank, Jacksonville.

An invitation to hold the convention of 1898 in Chicago was given and accepted. A letter of greeting was read from the president of the General Federation, and a vote of thanks tendered for the delightful music, part of which was executed by a chorus of pupils from the high school of Jacksonville. On the second evening State Street Church was crowded to its utmost capacity to listen to an analytical and illustrated lecture on Beethoven's second symphony in D major, opus 36, by Mrs. John Vance Cheney, of Chicago. The symphony is the finest musical composition known, and Beethoven was its master. Mrs. Cheney's treatment and illustrations were worthy of the topic, and were assisted by Prof. J. H. Davis and Mrs. H. A. Bourlard upon the piano. A reception given by Mrs. John E. Bradley, chairman of the Local Committee of Arrangements, was a beautiful feature of the convention, which was signalized by many hospitalities. One of these was given by Mrs. Lambert, of Jacksonville Sorosis, dating from December, 1868.

One result of the convention was the success of the women's clubs in Jacksonville in securing a curfew ordinance. The city council passed this

ordinance during the sessions at the earnest request of the women's clubs of the city. The children of Jacksonville under the age of sixteen will not be allowed on the streets after 8 o'clock during the winter months, and after 9 o'clock in the summer months.

A great feature of the convention was the extinction of the political spirit. "It has brought," said Mrs. Wiles, "the conservative element to the front. The work of women's clubs has at last become crystallized into what is the real work of women—that of culture, the education of children, and philanthropic endeavors. The majority in the federation is tremendously literary, and those who have political fads or personal ends to serve will not have much voice in the deliberations. Standing committees have been appointed on literature, art, education, philanthropy, and music, and the women of Illinois expect to do great good, now that a plan of action has been marked out on these lines."

The printed report of the Committee on Education states that in several cities the clubs have banded together and have made common cause in educational interests, the work being done by committees appointed from each club, who have reported progress at each meeting of the parent organization. Among these Quincy stands preëminent; the Atlantis, Round Table, and Woman's Local Council sending a joint report of the work done by all the clubs working together that is ideal in its completeness.

In Streator the work is not far behind that done in Quincy, as here the federated clubs, the Callere and the E Re Nata, join with other clubs in the Woman's Council, which is also federated, and through which the women are doing much.

Perhaps the most strictly educational work, in every respect, was that done by the Woodlawn Woman's Club, and the group of clubs that responded to its call—the Home Club, Fortnightly, Klio Association, Literary Score, Woman's Nineteenth Century Club, Portia Club, Woman's Aid Society, Woman's Literary Club of Millard Avenue, and the Englewood, Hull House, Ravenswood, Rogers Park, and West End Woman's clubs. This group of clubs divided the city into districts and collected data as to the seating capacity of the schools, number of pupils attending, and then published a report that was most interesting. Another valuable concerted movement was made at the call of the Chicago Teachers' Club, to wage war on the cigarette evil among boys, that so seriously interferes with all school work. To this call the Social Economic Club, Illinois Woman's Press Association, Nineteenth Century Club of Oak Park, and the Chicago, Irving Park, Lake View, River Forest, Rogers Park, and Woodlawn Woman's clubs responded.

The Clonian Society, of Pontiac, organized a Round Table for Children in January, which belongs to the Illinois Society for Child Study. It meets

in the office of the county superintendent of schools, and is composed of fathers, mothers, and teachers. It is arousing a general interest in the public schools and in true child life. The Princeton Woman's Club is taking a great interest in this subject, and is organizing Round Tables as a result of a visit from Mrs. M. C. Bourland. This is also true in Streator. The Oak Park Nineteenth Century Club is studying Sully's "Studies in Childhood," and the programme presented by the educational department is very fine. The Chicago Teachers' Club has a child study section that meets every month, while other sections have been studying other educational problems. The Tuscola Woman's Club, led by the mothers and teachers among its members, has made a vigorous study of child nature, and has organized a Round Table for the coming year. The home department of the South Side Woman's Club organized a Round Table section of forty members, with its own officers, and will continue the work this year. The Irving Park Woman's Club, the Riverside Friday Club, Millard Avenue Literary Club, Wilmette and Evanston Woman's clubs have devoted one or more programmes to child study, and the Ottawa Monday Club and De Kalb Woman's Club will do so the coming year. The Austin Woman's Club has devoted much time to this study, making it a specialty with great pleasure and profit. It will continue to do so next year.

The Decatur Woman's Club has shown its usual enthusiasm in this work, which includes the work of two departments, one organized for the purpose of child study.

The River Forest Woman's Club has a mothers' class that listened to a course of lectures on the needs of the child.

The Chicago Culture Club has established a scholarship in Hampton College, to be known by the club name.

The La Grange Woman's Club has a scholarship for \$50 in the high school for some pupil from outside the district.

The Irving Park Woman's Club has taken a scholarship in the Chicago Commons Kindergarten. The Aurora Woman's Club has voted to establish a kindergarten this year, and last year supported a manual training school for girls, in which they were taught to cook.

The Hinsdale Woman's Club gave \$50 towards a manual training school. The South Side Woman's Club gave \$50 towards a manual training department for girls in the Chicago public schools.

The Highland Park Ossoli listened to an illustrated lecture on kindergartens by Mrs. Anna L. Palmer, from which practical results may grow.

The Lake View Woman's Club is supporting one kindergarten and intends to have another. The Monmouth Fortnightly asked the Board of Education for one, but there was a lack of funds. The Portia Club is working for a

kindergarten in the public schools, and the West End Woman's Club has one in a West Side school. The Lake View Woman's Club has begun the contribution of books for a memorial library in the Alcott School. The Delevan Woman's Club was organized this year in the interest of a public library, and the Paxton Home Culture Club is also working in this direction, and in both instances the school interests will be considered.

The entire report, which occupies a pamphlet of twelve pages, is of great interest, and shows a large amount of work in the collection of statistics.

The State federation has found an ardent and faithful coadjutor in the Illinois State Teachers' Association. The latter invited the present chairman of the Educational Committee, Mrs. Mary Coddington Bourland, of Pontiac, to a place in its Executive Committee, and to preside over a joint meeting of teachers and club-women at the annual convention of the State Teachers' Association in December, 1897.

The adjournment of the third annual convention of the Illinois State Federation was to meet in Chicago in 1898.

The whole number of clubs in the State federation, October, 1897, including 25 added during the year, was 147. To these Chicago, with its suburbs, contributes 35. The whole number of towns represented was 87, 13 of which were brought in by additions to the club list during 1897.

In January, 1898, the State federation issued a circular of suggestions for practical work to the presidents of the local clubs. It was preceded by the following statement:

"The club interests of the fifteen thousand women now belonging to the Illinois Federation are so numerous and varied that they have been grouped under five heads and intrusted to five standing committees—education, philanthropy, literature, art, and music. These committees issue the following suggestions for practical work. It is earnestly desired that the corresponding secretary of every club read them in full to her club, in order that all club members may be fully informed as to the work of the federation and that every club may adopt some one or more of the suggested lines of work, and especially that it may report to the federation at the close of the club year all work accomplished in any and every direction indicated. These reports should be made to the chairmen of the various standing committees, and should be as full as possible. Each chairman feels the utter inadequacy of the space allotted her to do justice to her subject, and will be very glad to give further information or suggestion in answer to letters addressed to her. All believe that united and persistent effort in these humanitarian fields of endeavor will result in great good to the individual, the home, and the community.

"ALICE BRADFORD WILES, *President.*"

Suggestions for practical work were made by the chairman of each division to the local clubs of the State.

Under education, the formation of educational unions was urged, and the one in Brookline, Mass., suggested as a model. Philanthropy makes the care and education of dependent children of the first importance. Literature suggests critical attention to the speaking and writing of good English, and the supervision of children's books in home and school. Certain courses of study are recommended by the Art Committee, also selections of best textbooks and decoration of school-rooms. Equally practical are the plans of committees on music, libraries, and universities. The report occupies a pamphlet of eight pages, and may be obtained by application to the corresponding secretary of the State federation.

HOUSEHOLD ECONOMIC ASSOCIATIONS

These associations have grown out of a committee having in charge the congress of household economics in the Woman's Department of the World's Fair. The chairman of this committee was Mrs. John Wilkinson, and in planning the work she considered it a waste of time and energy to arrange for a conference that would begin and end with the summer work of 1893.

She consulted the committee, and it was decided to organize a national association, whose work should be permanent and divisible, but include that of preparing for the special congress of October, 1893.

Succeeding this congress, the association began as a national club, with a membership of thirty, which has steadily increased. The work was carried on through seven committees. First, the Committee on Sanitary Condition of Houses, Correct Plumbing and Ventilation, Light, Heat, and the like. The duties of this committee were to establish home science clubs and to make a study of sanitary science.

2d. Committee on Cooking Schools, Industrial Schools, Housekeeper's Emergency Bureau, Coöperative Laundries, Coöperative Bakeries, Training School for Servants, Kitchen Garden and Public Kindergartens, Diet Kitchens, Mothers' and Nurse Girls' Classes, and Training Schools for Nurses.

3d. Committee on Food Supply. To prepare a descriptive list of whole-sale and retail foods, to compare markets, etc.

4th. Committee on Household Economics in Village Communities.

5th. Committee on Sewing. The duties of this committee are to keep itself informed of the work done in various schools where sewing is taught, and give outlines of the methods used.

6th. Committee on Information, concerning intelligence offices and the like.

7th. Committee on Clubs, for the extension of the work in department directions.

The principal objects of the national association are to promote scientific methods, a free exchange of ideas on the subjects of housekeeping and home-making, comparisons of methods abroad with methods at home, and the obtaining of statistics in regard to household expenditure and the number of women engaged in productive agricultural and horticultural interests.

The work has been slow in gaining attention or finding a foothold in existing clubs. Most of these were organized with home departments; and the scheme of the Household Economic Association was too broad and complex for the partial consideration of small literary clubs.

The idea, however, gradually attracted attention, and though not accepted in its entirety, or everywhere worked out to its legitimate conclusions, is extending its field of operations, and becoming a recognized factor in social organizations.

The work did not assume a truly national character until the annual meeting of 1896, held in Milwaukee. At this meeting State auxiliaries were provided for, and a State vice-president appointed in twenty-six States. The then president, Mrs. E. Boynton Harbert; was succeeded by Dr. Mary E. Green as the national president.

The officers are: Honorary president, Mrs. Laura S. Wilkinson, of Chicago; president, Dr. Mary E. Green, of Charlotte, Mich.; vice-president, Mrs. Thomas F. Gano, of Chicago; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Marguerite Phillips, of Charlotte, Mich.; treasurer, Miss Ellen F. Marshall, of Chicago.

The vice-presidents are: Arkansas, Mrs. J. Beauchamp, Little Rock; California, Miss Boyd, Fresno; Colorado, Mrs. E. C. Lee, Cripple Creek; Georgia, Mrs. W. P. Cattillo, Atlanta; Illinois, Mrs. P. M. Butler, Oak Park; Indiana, Mrs. M. A. Moody, Indianapolis; Kansas, Mrs. L. W. Hall, Kansas City; Louisiana, Mrs. H. H. Behrens; Maine, Mrs. E. F. Carpenter, Brunswick; Maryland, Mrs. M. H. Abel, Baltimore; Michigan, Mrs. J. G. Hancock, Grand Haven; Minnesota, Miss A. M. Pattee, St. Paul; Missouri, Mrs. M. H. Lacy, St. Louis; Montana, Mrs. T. W. Buzzo, Walkerville; Nebraska, Mrs. M. M. Pugh, Omaha; New Jersey, Mrs. T. S. Doty, Long Branch; New York, Mrs. Wm. G. Shailer, New York city; North Dakota, Prof. M. B. Senn, Fargo; Oregon, Mrs. E. L. Harmon, Portland; Pennsylvania, Mrs. A. K. Richardson, Berwick; Tennessee, Miss M. B. Temple, Knoxville; Texas, Mrs. J. D. Thomas, Waco; Utah, Mrs. L. C. Foster, Logan; Washington, Mrs. H. E. Holmes, Seattle; Wisconsin, Miss M. L. Clarke, Milwaukee; Ontario (Canada), Miss M. E. Millar, Millar's Corners.

Club Life in Indiana

THE first reading group in Indiana of which there is any knowledge originated with a young girl in the village of New Harmony, founded by the English socialist, Robert Dale Owen. Her name was Constance Fauntleroy, and she had just returned from a school life spent abroad. "It was," she writes, "in 1858 that I conceived the idea of bringing the young women together for reading and literary work. We did not call it a club, but we had a name—the Minerva—and I was, of course, the president; but we had a vice-president, a secretary, and treasurer, and conducted the meetings with parliamentary order. We met at each other's houses, and had a reading, a short original story or poem, and discussed books or a question. The work was assigned to each member in her turn, and we often had lively discussions.

"The Owens were literary, but the place was stifling to me, who had just returned from Europe and was accustomed to society and study. At the end of three years I married the Rev. Dr. Runcie and removed to Madison. The Minerva continued to exist for three years longer, but was finally broken up by the girls getting married.

"In Madison I started the Brontë on the same basis as the Minerva, sending for my original constitution. This was in 1864. It met at my house, and I was its president as long as I remained in Madison—ten years. It afterwards reorganized under another name. I helped to found the Woman's Club of San Francisco, Cal., and in 1894 organized the Runcie Club, of St. Joseph, Mo., of which I am the president, and which consists of one hundred and twenty-five women. We converse instead of debating, and do not vote by ballot. The Runcie Club has toned up the society of St. Joseph, and imparted a literary character. Mrs. Runcie has always been the president."

C. F. R.

The Fortnightly Literary Club, of Indianapolis, was organized in 1885, with a membership limited to thirty-five. From
" *Light seeking light* the beginning its work was definite and serious in
doth light of light beguile." the fields of literature, art, science, political govern-
ment, and social and domestic economics.

The organization was simple but flexible, fitted for the government of a

club intentionally limited in size, and with the purpose of culture rather than participation in active affairs.

The present limit of the club is seventy-five. There are three standing committees in addition to the executive, which is formed by a union of the other three, with the president as chairman.

The Katherine Merrill Club, of Indianapolis, was named in honor of a successful and much-loved teacher of that city. It dates from 1885, and has always been strictly literary in its work and ways.

For its members it has been a post-graduate course in literature, more thorough and of finer quality than can be found in many universities.

T. W. Higginson, in an article written in 1889, entitled "A Typical Woman's Club," said of the Katherine Merrill programme: "One may get from this little pamphlet of a dozen pages a clearer and more well-founded view of current American tendencies, especially among women, than can be found in any half dozen ordinary works written to elucidate the same subjects."

The motto used as the text for this record was taken from a year-book of the Katherine Merrill Club for 1892-93.

Its general topic for that year was "America, from its Historic, Literary, and International Point of View." The president was Mrs. Grace Julian Clarke.

The subject for conversation is only announced upon the assemblage of the club, and criticism of the conversation by the club follows conversation itself. In the programme the book of the hour has a place, and the motto for that day reads, "In the highest civilization the book is the highest delight."

The membership of the Katherine Merrill Club has shown some notable names, among them Constance Fenimore Woolson and Mrs. Benjamin Harrison.

Only those who have been pupils in the school are eligible to the club, and the number of women leaders in other clubs who are allied with the Katherine Merrill Club shows the influence it has exerted in their training and the development of high literary taste.

The president (1897) is Miss Katherine Merrill; the active membership, eighty-five, and six associate. The club joined the General Federation in 1890.

Over the Teacups dates its organization from June 19, 1890. Previous to that time it had existed for nine years as a history class. It was the desire of the leader to make of this group the nucleus of a woman's club, and to

test the feeling in the matter she invited the class to a tea. The invitation bore at the bottom of the card these words:

"To be, or not to be"—a club,
"That's the question."



Twelve interested women responded to this call. A committee on constitution was appointed, and at a second meeting one was discussed, adopted, and an organization effected.

Dr. Holmes's delightful talks were then very much in evidence, and "Over the Teacups" was the happy thought for a name.

The arrangement of the programme for the year was put in the hands of an executive committee, and on October 10, 1890, the club, as a club, held its first regular meeting.

The work has been upon the lines of historic study and literary culture, supplemented by conversations that are seriously directed to the work in hand, or some general topic, and are never allowed to become debate. Gradually, under the head of "Oral Topics," questions were treated without papers, with the same length and with as much care as written work.

The limited membership of twenty-five has been slowly extended. The literary purpose being always superior to the social, new members were only taken when they could be assimilated. The social element has not, however, been neglected. Over the Teacups is not a misnomer, and once a year the club receives its husbands, brothers, and friends at an anniversary that has always been a feast of good things and is pleasantly anticipated. Over the Teacups joined the General Federation in March, 1892. The president is Mrs. Katherine S. Jones, and its meetings are on alternate Fridays.

The Propylæum, of Indianapolis.—This central club home, in a city famous for the number and quality of its women's clubs, received its inspiration in April, 1888, from a committee of seven women appointed by the Indianapolis Woman's Club to find a suitable room in which to hold its meetings.

The chairman was Mrs. May Wright Sewall; and the special business having been concluded, she proposed that they should at once reorganize themselves into a voluntary committee to consider the feasibility of forming, among the women of Indianapolis, a stock company for the purpose of erecting and owning a building which should be specially adapted for the use of the women's clubs, literary, artistic, and social. This proposition, at first startling, was finally accepted as practically possible.

During the next two months they held ten meetings, to three of which eighty-nine ladies were invited, to whom the project was unfolded, and whose coöperation was solicited. By some the scheme was considered wild and impracticable; by others it was received with enthusiasm; on the whole, the committee were sufficiently encouraged to go forward. On June 6th they were incorporated under the name of The Indianapolis Propylæum, with the privilege of issuing stock to the amount of \$15,000. The names of the incorporators were May Wright Sewall, Elizabeth V. Pierce, Helen B. Holman, Mary N. Walcott, Harriet M. Foster, Carrie F. Milligan, and Margaret D. Chislett.



PROPYLÆUM, INDIANAPOLIS, IND.
Dedicated January 27, 1891

The name signifies a court or vestibule in architecture, and was given to the gateway of the Athenian Acropolis.

The capital stock of the corporation was \$20,000, divided into shares of \$25 each, the stock to be acquired, purchased, and held only by women. The object was to "erect, furnish, and maintain a suitable building, to be rented and used for literary, artistic, scientific, industrial, musical, mechanical, and educational purposes, or public or private meetings, and thus to provide a centre of cultivation for the public, and particularly the women of Indianapolis." The corporate seal is a circle bearing on its circumference the words "Indianapolis Propylæum," with the date "1888," and containing

within a representation of the structure in ancient Athens called the Propylæa, or a portion thereof.

A meeting was held on June 22, 1888, at Mrs. Pierce's house, where the stock book was opened for the first time, and ten ladies, besides the incorporators, subscribed for stock. These were: Mrs. Mary N. Carey, Mrs. Sarah F. Atkins, Mrs. Esther M. Bradshaw, Mrs. Juliet D. Shipp, Mrs. Jennie T. Hendricks, Mrs. Annie A. Spruance, Mrs. Mary A. R. Stewart, Mrs. Mary E. Blackledge, Miss Eliza S. Hendricks, Miss Mary C. Rariden, and Miss Nora Farquhar. At this meeting the organization was perfected by the election of fifteen ladies as directors. The board elected the following officers: President, Mrs. May Wright Sewall; vice-president, Mrs. Margaret D. Chislett; secretary, Mrs. Helen B. Holman; and treasurer, Mrs. Elizabeth V. Pierce.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, in February, 1890, it was announced by the Finance Committee that \$13,700 worth of stock had been sold. This was so encouraging that a strong and united effort was made to place the whole; and on March 10th club-women were electrified by the statement that all the stock had been taken. Bids for erecting the building were now invited, with the final result that a contract was signed to complete the building by October, 1890. On May 8th the corner-stone was laid with appropriate ceremonies.

At an annual meeting, held May 12, 1890, the president reported that though the whole amount of stock had been sold, it was quite evident that, after deducting the money paid for the lot, the remaining \$14,500 would not be enough for the completion and equipment of the building in the substantial manner required. It was therefore proposed either to increase the capital stock or to allow the directors to borrow a certain amount of money. The latter plan was finally adopted as being the one that would in the end be most advantageous to the stockholders, and the directors were authorized to borrow a sum not exceeding \$10,000. With the cost incurred by changes and improvements upon the original plan, the Propylæum represented an expenditure of \$28,000. On Tuesday evening, January 27, 1891, the Propylæum was completed and dedicated. The dedicatory exercises comprised an address by the president, Mrs. Sewall; an historic sketch by the vice-president, Mrs. Margaret D. Chislett; and short addresses by Mrs. Virginia C. Meredith, Hon. Alvin P. Hovey, Governor of Indiana; Mrs. M. Louise Thomas, ex-president of Sorosis; Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, of Kalamazoo, Mich.; Mrs. Lucy C. Thomas, New York; Mrs. Ellen M. H. Peck, secretary of the Milwaukee Athenæum; Mrs. C. W. Putnam, of the Grand Rapids Woman's Club; Hon. Thos. L. Sullivan, Mayor of Indianapolis.

Letters of congratulation were read from Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, Miss Willard, Mrs. Croly, Mrs. Potter Palmer, Mrs. Julia Holmes Smith, Mrs.

E. D. Clymer, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods, and others. Presidents of women's clubs in Indianapolis, with the invited guests, occupied seats upon the platform.

The musical exercises were in charge of Mrs. C. F. Robinson.

Thus was the Propylæum launched upon a career full of usefulness—the second woman's club-house, and the first that has been entirely held to its original purpose. Men who have had the control of material forces, who have built and owned since the beginning, cannot understand the thrill of satisfaction with which women see a work of their own, involving financial risk, begun in fear, brought to successful completion.

The Propylæum has a front of 75 feet and a depth of 67 feet. The building is constructed of stone, brick, and iron. It is finished in oak throughout, except the directors' room, which is finished in black walnut. The provisions for heating, lighting, and ventilation were studied with great care. It affords handsome and convenient accommodations for club meetings, banquets, lectures, public and private receptions, dramatic entertainments, concerts, art exhibits, and, in general, for all social, literary, musical, and other gatherings for which private houses are too small and public halls too large. It is now an indispensable and paying institution.

The Local Council, of Indianapolis, was organized in 1892. It includes representative societies, religious, literary, and philanthropic, and has standing committees on municipal and legislative affairs.

The first president was Mrs. May Wright Sewall, and women are in the majority in the societies composing its membership, but the constitution provides for the membership of organizations composed of both men and women, and of individual "patrons" on the payment of twenty dollars.

The Helen Hunt Club, of Cambridge City, had its beginning in the impulse of a few ladies who felt the need of some definite plan for self-improvement.

The name was at first "The Two o'Clock Club," but was in September, 1889, changed to "The Helen Hunt Club." The spirit of the club is well expressed in the preamble to the Articles of Association, which reads: "With an earnest desire to obtain a higher degree of literary culture, a greater fund of knowledge, and a better appreciation of the dignity of womanhood, we associate ourselves together as a club."

The plan of work was a study of United States history by administrations—the literary, social, and political phases of each period being the topics

*"Like the star
That shines afar,
Without haste
And without rest*

*Let each man wheel with steady sway
Round the task that rules the day,
And do his best."*

—Goethe.

of original papers prepared by the members, with conversation and discussion following. The most gratifying feature of the club's history is the prompt attendance and excellent work accomplished. It had from the beginning valuable aid from one of its gifted presidents, Mrs. Virginia C. Meredith, and joined the General Federation as early as 1890.

In addition to the special literary work of each meeting, there is always a conversation on current conditions or events, and a standing committee on university extension, one also on music, one on entertainment, and a fourth upon membership. The officers consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, and three critics. The responses to roll-call are made from the author, or relate to the subject under consideration.

The Indianapolis Woman's Club is the second oldest in the State. It was born on the 18th of February, 1875. Seven members organized under the constitution, increased during the first year to twenty-one. The limit of seventy-five was soon reached; and its reputation became so well established that a waiting list grew into proportions that compelled further enlargement.

The object of the club, as expressed in the constitution, is "to form an organized centre for the mental and social culture of its members, and for the improvement of domestic life; to this end the club encourages a liberal interchange of thought by papers and discussion."

The first meeting was held at the residence of Martha N. McRay, who was made secretary, Mrs. Laura Giddings Julian being the president. Among the famous first seven are the names of May Wright Sewall, Mary A. McGregory, Katherine Merrill, Margaret D. Chislett, and others whose names are prominent in the history of this and other clubs in Indianapolis; several of them in the important educational work of the State, while at least one has a national reputation.

The first question discussed in the club was the following: "To be a good housekeeper, is it necessary to devote one's entire time to the work?" The paper was given by Nancy G. Roberts.

The early subjects discussed were in relation to women—Hebrew women, Greek women, Roman women, European women, and the women of America; their relation to man, their physical and intellectual culture, their religious and society life, their occupations and position at different periods and in different countries. The next subject was the rise and growth of chivalry, and its influence upon social and national life. Following this came causes leading to the Reformation, and the changes incident to that religious revolution.



In 1882 a special committee was formed, with Mrs. May Wright Sewall as chairman, that made important recommendations regarding some form of club reciprocity and correspondence. It said:

"The committee recognizes that the Indianapolis Woman's Club owes much to clubs of an earlier origin than its own—a knowledge of whose workings has been a guide in its own attempts, and whose success was an inspiration to it in its feeble beginnings. The committee believes that only by doing for other groups of women, who here and there are making isolated attempts at self-culture, what older clubs did for our own in its weakness, can this club pay the debt it owes to such clubs. The committee, therefore, recommends that an agreement be entered into among the best known clubs to exchange programmes and new plans of work at the beginning of each club year. This will enable clubs to keep posted on one another's regular work. Also, it recommends an exchange of copies of constitutions or similar documents, whenever the same are revised. This will enable clubs to mark one another's growth, and will doubtless be suggestive of better methods to all. Lastly, the committee recommends that, following the example of Sorosis, the New England, and the New Century, the Indianapolis Woman's Club, at the end of each club year, have printed, in neat pamphlet form, the annual reports of its officers, and that copies of these be in the hands of the corresponding secretary to send to other clubs, and also to such ladies in our own and neighboring States as shall from time to time make application for aid in forming circles similar to our own. Thus our club will be able to gain from organizations older and wiser than itself, and in turn give its strength and experience to younger groups, and without sacrificing any of that reserve which is a true club quality, we may have our experience enlarged by sharing it.

"Respectfully submitted,

"May Wright Sewall,

"Mary Coburn,

"Helen B. Holman."

This report was adopted by the Indianapolis Woman's Club November 3, 1882, and was one of the early efforts to broaden the work of the local club and extend its interests.

The standing committees of the Indianapolis Woman's Club are an executive, which has charge of the programmes; a membership, and a room committee. The number of members is limited to one hundred, and one who has been a member for eighteen years may, upon application, be made a "privileged" member, which excuses her from participation in literary work.

The subjects, as presented in the programmes throughout all the years,

have been strong and up-to-date; the discussions, free and untrammelled, but excluding propagandism.

All the initial steps taken, and preparatory work done in the inception and building of the Woman's Propylæum in Indianapolis, were taken by the Woman's Club, as told in the story of the Propylæum upon another page. The accomplishment of this enterprise, though strongly aided by other organizations, and now rightfully belonging as an intellectual centre to all the women's clubs of the city, must still stand forever as an honorable memorial to the Woman's Club of Indianapolis.

The officers (1897) are: President, Mrs. Price; vice-president, Mrs. Runnels; recording secretary, Mrs. Elder; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Kate Rand Winters; treasurer, Mrs. Spaulding.

Recent topics have included: "A New View of the Child," "An Altruistic Experiment," "The Power Behind the Throne," "The Price of Progress in Ideas," and "The Present Status of the Higher Criticism."

Indiana Union of Literary Clubs.—The Indiana Union of Literary Clubs was the suggestion of "some members of the Indianapolis Woman's Club, inspired by the convention of Sorosis in 1889."

The first meeting was held June 5 and 6, 1890, at Richmond, Ind., the literary clubs of the State sending between fifty and sixty delegates and about three hundred club members. At this meeting a permanent organization was effected, and Mrs. Mary McGregory, of Indianapolis, elected president.

The Woman's Club of Indianapolis had prepared a constitution for the new union, and sent it to the presidents of the different clubs in the State. This constitution was adopted, and under it an executive committee was chosen.

The work of the first year brought many clubs into active correspondence; and the second meeting, held at Terre Haute, May 7 and 8, 1891, was a very enthusiastic one, bringing together upwards of a hundred delegates, and offering a literary programme full of stimulating suggestion.

Miss Elizabeth Nicholson, of Indianapolis, was the second president, and Miss Camilla Hutton, secretary.

The Indiana Union of Literary Clubs is not strictly a woman's organization. Perhaps there is more of the literary spirit among the men of that State than is common elsewhere.

However that may be, there was in 1877 in Indianapolis a literary club of men. It was organized under a constitution January 20, 1877, under the name of the Indianapolis Literary Club, and its object stated as "social, literary, and æsthetic culture."

The membership in 1889 had increased to seventy gentlemen, with Mr.

Nathaniel A. Hyde as president, and Mr. Theodore L. Sewall, the husband of May Wright Sewall, secretary.

Meetings were held on Monday evenings, and one out of four was a "ladies' " night.

The subjects debated were principally civic and governmental, with an occasional literary discussion of a somewhat general character.

The existence of this club may have predisposed Indiana men to coöperative literary lines, and partly explain the existence of male literary clubs in the Indiana Literary Union.

At any rate, at the fourth annual convention of the union of literary clubs, held at Fort Wayne, in May, 1893, at which seventy-four clubs were represented, ten of these were by male delegates; and Dr. H. T. Eddy, of Terre Haute, was put upon the Programme Committee. It may be remarked in passing that Dr. Eddy was among the nominees for president on that occasion, but that Mrs. Alice P. Dryer was elected for 1894, succeeding Mrs. Mary H. Smart.

The rapid growth and prosperity of the Union have, undoubtedly, been the cause of the non-existence of a State federation for so many years after other States had formed one, for Indiana women are not in the habit of bringing up the rear.

Fort Wayne, though occupying a remote corner of Indiana, is a strong club town. It rejoices in sixteen clubs, thirteen of which are literary and social, two devoted to art, and one to the musical interests of this city.

Two allow the membership of men, the Society of Art and the Fortnightly. The membership ranges from ten to fifty.

The Woman's Reading Club was the first to organize in 1890, but the Morning Musical Club is by far the largest of the women's clubs in Fort Wayne, and also one of the oldest. Its originator was Mrs. Jane N. Brady, and it rejoices in a membership of three hundred "active," "associate," and "student."

Its officers consist of a president, three vice-presidents, two secretaries, treasurer, and librarian. It is a member of the Woman's Club League, of Fort Wayne, and also of the Indiana Literary Union. Its work is many-sided, and it has become an important educational factor in its own city.

Both the Morning Musical and the Society of Art are more in touch with the public, through "open" entertainments and exhibitions of art works, than the usual literary club, though the influence of the latter may be as strongly felt in a quiet way.

The Woman's Reading Club is the oldest of the literary clubs, and was originally governed by standing rules only. It afterwards adopted a constitution, which states as the object, "the study of history, literature, and art;" also, "the general intellectual and social culture of its members."

There is only one committee, the Programme Committee, which consists of those members elected by ballot at the first meeting in March; the general subject for study having been selected by the club at a previous meeting.

The chairman of the Programme Committee is the presiding officer, and the other two members act as secretary and treasurer. The work of the club "Knowledge rare, we seek and share." has grown steadily from the ideal set at the beginning to the present time. The ancient empires furnished the subjects for study for several years; contemporaneous literature, with a retrospect, occupied 1895; the literary and social conditions of the century, 1896-97.

The bibliography which has accompanied these studies has been of the best and most comprehensive character. It furnishes in its lists and within its limits the foundation of an admirable library, and is a society in itself of delightful literary companionship, past and present.

The Fortnightly, of Fort Wayne, is not an exclusively woman's club; husbands are admitted as well as wives, the constitution providing that "When the names of husband and wife are proposed for membership, the vote shall be cast for one, but they shall count as two members." The plan of work is more that of a literary symposium than a debate or the study of an anticipated subject, and deals largely with national and interstate topics.

The president of the Fortnightly for 1897 is Mrs. Margaret M. MacPhail; vice-president, Mr. A. B. Crowe; secretary, Mrs. Laura M. Detger.

The meetings are held in the evening at the public library, every fourth one being a "guests' evening," and all taking part in the discussion.

The Woman's Club League, of Fort Wayne, founded on December 8, 1892, has grown into a large and important organization. Its first effort was to establish a free public library on the basis of a law which allowed school trustees to levy a tax for the founding of such a library.

The women at once canvassed the city to secure names favoring such a levy, which they presented as part of a petition to the town council. They were rewarded by the opening of a public library on January 28, 1894. In 1896 the league gave a fine art exhibit under the auspices of the Central Art Association of Chicago, and during the winter of 1897 a course of twelve university extension lectures, which attracted large and intelligent audiences.

The league is practically a club of clubs, including all the literary, musical, and artistic clubs in the city. It meets four times a year, each club being represented on the programme or by a report. Its general topic for 1897 has been "Civic Federation."

Greencastle claims the honor of forming the first "all-round" woman's club in the State of Indiana.

The Woman's Club, of Greencastle, was organized in February, 1874. The constitution states as the object, "the intellectual, moral, and social development of women."

The membership, at first limited to twenty-five, was soon increased; the officers consisting of a president, three vice-presidents, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, and two critics. For five years these were elected semi-annually, and the secretary made out the programme for each meeting, allowing two weeks for the preparation of the work. But the club had outgrown by that time these methods, and a revision of the constitution provided for the annual election of officers, and printed outlines of study were arranged by a committee a year in advance.

During the twenty-four years of life the studies have included many aspects of literature, science, history, art, and music in various countries.

Two years were given to the old masters and their works. Other years have been devoted to Shakespeare, Goethe, Schiller, and lesser lights. In 1885 a systematic course of study of the history and literature of different countries was begun and pursued with great zeal and thoroughness. This successive course lasted several years, varied by an occasional discussion of some current topic.

The club has adhered to the "one term" in office, and the training the members have received has brought many demands for them to preside over other organizations and at meetings conducted by women.

The Woman's Club, of Greencastle, sent a delegate (Mrs. Elizabeth Ames) to the first convention of clubs held in New York in March, 1889, the oldest of the seven Indiana clubs that reported on that occasion. The others were the Monday Club, of Lafayette; the Indianapolis Woman's Club; the Tourist Club, of Frankfort; the Woman's Reading Club, of Terre Haute; Woman's Club of Vincennes; the Ladies' Literary Club, of Evansville; the Katherine Merrill Club, of Indianapolis. A member of the Woman's Club writes: "While our club life has done very much for us in the way of general information and variety of culture, it has done more in the development of character and a higher social life."

The Federated Clubs of Muncie, Ind.—As Indiana, with her Union of Literary Clubs, led the way to State federation, so Muncie organized the first federate club of clubs in the State, covering Muncie and Delaware County. This city and county federation was founded April 3, 1896. At its first annual convention, held June 9, 1897, it voted to build for itself a club-home or "propylæum"; to petition the city council for the passage of a "curfew" law; to likewise petition for the levying of a tax of one mill on every dollar's worth of city property for the better maintenance of the public library. Committees representing all these interests were formed, and the accomplish-

ment of the purposes they represent is only a matter of time. The first officers were: President, Mrs. Caroline J. McCulloch; vice-presidents, Mrs. Helen Masters, and presidents of constituent clubs; recording and corresponding secretary, Mrs. Harriet W. Kitts; financial secretary, Mrs. Sarah Kate Kessler; treasurer, Mrs. Harriet Kemper.

The Federate Club of Clubs is a union of thirteen separate organizations, of which the oldest and largest is the **Woman's Club**, of Muncie. This club "Progress," was projected in January of the centennial year (1876). It is therefore not only the oldest in Muncie, but one of the oldest in the West. It consists of about sixty active, twenty-five associate, and twenty-five corresponding members. Its literary work in 1896 was the study of Greece, its history, literature, sculpture, and mythology.

For two years it has conducted classes in literature, French, German, current events, and physical culture, in which the best instruction has been provided at the nominal cost of one dollar per term of ten lessons. Its president is Mrs. Rose Stewart; vice-president, Mrs. Lydia Andrews; recording secretary, Miss E. B. Goodwin; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary E. Case; treasurer, Mrs. H. L. Pattison. The club flower is the carnation; the colors, blue and white; the motto, "Progress."

The **Ladies' Matinee Musicale** is the second club in years, organized January 12, 1889. It is composed of thirty active, twenty student, and twenty-five associate members. It studies the works of classic composers, and renders a programme of excellence once a fortnight. At stated times during the year, concerts are arranged, in which appear well-known artists from all parts of the country. Occasionally "open meetings," which the public is privileged to attend upon the payment of a small fee, are red-letter days in the musical circles of Muncie. The president is Miss Nannie C. Love; the secretary, Mrs. M. L. Cassady; the chairman of the Reception Committee, Mrs. C. H. Church.

The "**Mary-Martha**" Club is one of which the federation is very proud. It was born in March, 1891, and is a country club pure and simple, refusing admittance to residents of town or city. But "The actual and the ideal," though its members sometimes drive eight or nine miles to attend meetings, it puts to shame many of its city sisters in point of interest



MISS NANNIE C. LOVE,
Founder and President of Matinee
Musical, Muncie, Ind.

and attendance. Besides twenty-five active members, it includes a "daughters'" contingent of fifteen. Its study has been miscellaneous in character, covering a jaunt through England, France, Holland, and Denmark, as well as rather extensive wanderings in America.

The president is Mrs. E. C. Ribble; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. M. S. Saffer. The club flower is the pansy; the club colors purple and old gold; the motto, "The actual and the ideal."

The Art Students' League was organized March 8, 1892. In its five years of life it has done much creditable work in studio and field, as well as socially. Its programme for the year 1897 gives as subjects: "Symbolism in Art," "Religion" and "Color," "Magazine Illustration," and provides for practice in sketching and original composition. Its year-book bears a distinctive and original design upon its cover, made by a club member. Its colors are two shades of purple; its president, Mrs. Blanche S. Turner; its secretary, Miss Elizabeth Bingham.

The Monday Afternoon Club was formed in the same year, 1892, but dates a month earlier. It is a study club of twenty members, which pursues a subject for a year under divisions arranged by a programme committee. In 1896 the topics related to the home; in 1897 the State of Indiana formed the subject: its pioneer history, topography, institutions, and public men. The club flower is the carnation; the colors, green and white. The president is Mrs. Laura Heath; the secretary, Mrs. Florence Branch.

The year 1893 saw the birth of two clubs, the Dante and the Magazine Club. The Dante is the smallest club in the federation. It consists of ten young women of scholarly tastes, who began the study of the poet for whom the club is named, in connection with Mrs. Oliphant's "Makers of Florence" and Ruskin's "Mornings in Florence." It has no formal organization, but is represented in the federation by its delegate and founder, Mrs. Edith Love.

The Magazine Club accords a certain amount of privilege to the husbands of its members, who are entertained at every alternate meeting and are, in a sense, "honorary." Its recent work has been a comprehensive study of America, from the earliest times down to the present. Its president is Mrs. E. M. Smith; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Clara Hickman.

Something in the atmosphere of 1894 seems to have been favorable to the birth of clubs, for no less than six sprang into existence during that year: the Round Table, the Athenæum, the McRae, the Conversation, the Dickens, and the Happy Hour. The last named is the second country club in the federation. It has thirty members, and a fine schedule of study, miscellaneous in character, but strong and suggestive. Its president is Mrs. G. S. Leeper; secretary and

treasurer, Miss M. Williams. The club flower is the chrysanthemum ; its colors, white and pink, and the motto, " Hope and effort."

The Dickens Club was formed for the study of that author, and when its leader was removed was threatened with collapse, but a reorganization under a vigorous constitution and elected officers proved potential factors. Its later work has been an exhaustive and most profitable study of Shakespeare, and now of other authors, both English and American. It has adopted for its flower the ascension lily, and for colors green and white, signifying growth and purity of aim. Its president is Miss E. Cammock ; secretary, Miss F. Darracott.

The Conversation Club strictly prohibited in its constitution the use of papers, even in the form of preparatory notes. Its subjects have been of practical importance, including " Weather Bureau " and " Signal Service," " Banks and Banking," " Political Parties," and " American Money." A club song, words and music composed by members, is employed upon all distinctive occasions, and it also issues a year-book with an original cover. Its motto is in keeping with its name, and though its membership is limited to twenty, it has attained a high reputation. The decorative flower is the pink rose ; the colors, pink and green. The president is Mrs. Harriet Walrath Kitts ; the secretary, Mrs. L. White.

The three remaining clubs might be called the triplets ; they were born within nine days of each other. The Round Table devoted part of its first year to the study of Cuba and Mexico. Since then it has travelled in Ireland, Scotland, Greece, and Africa. It has a " visitors' " day and a " household " day, with special features arranged for each. The membership is limited to twenty, and the president is Mrs. A. S. Moore ; secretary, Mrs. N. Vatell. The club flower is the pink rose ; the colors, green and white.

The Woman's Athenæum is a studious club of twenty-five members. Its motto is indicative of its character, " Yesterday is a remembrance, and to-morrow a hope ; to-day alone is ours." Its work is miscellaneous, and has included American history, literature, and politics, the rulers of Europe, and the world's famous painters and illustrators. The Athenæum is particularly well versed in parliamen-



MRS. HARRIET W. KITTS,
President Conversation Club, Muncie,
Ind.

tary usage, and uses businesslike methods in its management of routine affairs. The president is Mrs. Helen Masters; the corresponding secretary, Miss M. Searcy. The club flower is the rose; the club colors, old gold and white.

The McRae is the goddaughter of a scholarly woman whose influence is still felt in Muncie, Mrs. Emma Mont McRae. Mrs. McRae was a professor of English in Perdue University. *"Study to be what you wish to seem."* The club named for her has devoted much of its time to American subjects, with special reference to municipal affairs and the government of different cities. Alternate days upon the programme are given to literary subjects, particularly to the poets. The McRae, like the Athenæum, has made a specialty of parliamentary law. It is a club with high ideals, and endeavors to live up to them. Its motto, "Study to be what you wish to seem," is not a dead letter, but an actuating principle. Its limit of membership is twenty-five; its president, Mrs. Kate Kessler; its corresponding secretary, Mrs. Edith Klein. The club flower is the yellow rose, and the club colors blue and old gold.

Each of these constituent clubs is represented in the city federation by two delegates, of which one is its president. Each club is also represented in all civic, educational, or business committees by one member.

Two meetings are held during the year, an annual and a semi-annual, the former by constitution always occurring just one week later than the State convention.

Muncie is represented in the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs by eight organizations. They are: the Federate Club of Clubs, the Art Students' League, the Conversation, the Dickens, the McRae, the Monday Afternoon, the Woman's, and the Woman's Athenæum.

Mrs. Caroline J. McCulloch has been identified with the club movement from its earliest Indiana days. She is a charter member of the Woman's Club, organized in 1876, serving as its first treasurer, and for thirteen years its active president. At the end of that time she received the title of president emeritus. She was the first president of the city federation, and is now its honorary president. She is also a valued member of the Public Library Board. Mrs. McCulloch was born in Carlyle, Pa., in 1826, but has been



MRS. C. J. McCULLOCH,
First President City Federation, Muncie,
Ind.

a resident in Muncie for nearly fifty years. Beloved by all who know her, she is most loved and most revered by her family of five children, who occupy high positions in civil and educational life, and to whom she has been a real and ideal mother.

Miss Nannie C. Love is Kentuckian by birth and Scotch by descent. She is the organizer and president of the Ladies' Matinee Musicale, one of Muncie's most flourishing organizations. She has for fifteen years held the position of supervisor of music in the Muncie public schools, where she has achieved more than local reputation. She is also a member of the faculty in the New School of Methods, and a teacher of recognized standing in the United States.

Mrs. Harriet Walrath Kitts, the able president of the Conversation Club and the present secretary of the Indiana Union of Literary Clubs, is a native of Syracuse, N. Y., and a graduate of Vassar College in the class of 1884. She has been the president of the Conversation Club since its start.

The Amaranth, of New Albany, started as a study club many years since, and has done excellent work. Its course of German literature, 1892-93, was "Ancora imparo." delightfully arranged, beginning with the language, customs, and religion of the early German people, covering the Minnesingers, the Rhine legends, the Reformation, the Storm and Stress period, Goethe, Schiller, and Richter, universities, cathedrals, and cities, down to modern German literature and its influence upon the literary life of Europe. The organization has always been simple, the officers consisting of a president, vice-president, secretary and treasurer in one. The membership is about forty, meeting at each other's houses fortnightly, and holding one annual meeting which celebrates the anniversary in February. The motto is, "Ancora imparo."

The Ionian Club, of Greenfield, was started in October, 1888, at the home of Mrs. Black, by a number of ladies, who met at her invitation. The first meeting was called without any definite plan of work or of method, simply from a desire for companionship in thought. They experimented with various suggestions. For a year, instead of quotations, every meeting was opened with an original figure of speech from every member. Also for a year a list of words given one day was woven into a chapter of an original story read at the following meeting. But these ideas, while entertaining, required too much time for preparation, and afforded too little basis for permanent work, to be continued. The writing of papers was discouraged on the ground that so much is needed to make a paper readable that is not worth remembering. Every meeting is opened with quotations from the book that is being read, or relates to the subject that is being talked about. Fifteen minutes are given to business, and twenty to items of interest from the field of literature.

A list of new words or mispronounced words in every-day use is a feature of the programme, the members preparing it in turn. The club has made one serious effort to establish a public library. It failed at the time, men who do not read "seeing no use" in a library.

The Ionian was one of the early members of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, its membership antedating the first biennial.

The Tourist Club, of Frankfort, was organized in 1888 as a United States history class. In June, 1889, the name was changed to Tourist Club, the object being to form a centre for the systematic study of the different countries of the world. It was a self-conducted company of women, seeking out places of beauty and objects of historic interest and value. The idea was to make the travel as real as possible, and reaching an objective point, take it up in detail and make it the subject of exhaustive study rather than the flying glimpse of the ordinary tourist.



The membership was limited to thirty, divided into three classes of ten each, with a leader appointed for each meeting.

Every member is expected to act as leader once during the year, and to prepare six papers upon some branch of the subject in hand.

The exercises have been varied by music, recitations, and discussions, which are more in the way of conversation than debate.

Some attention has been given to parliamentary law, and the club works under a clear, concise constitution which is an aid and not a hindrance to club work. The plan adopted in the course of study has been broad and thorough; a cultivation of mental power, as well as a pleasant excitement of the imagination. The relation of foreign nations visited, to America and other parts of the world, their social conditions and great men and women, their progress in arts and industries, have all been part of the scheme of study.

The club has been fortunate in its membership and leaders. Its first president, Mrs. Belle Montgomery Van Sickle, died, very much regretted, in 1893. Later presidents were: Mrs. Amanda McMoore, Miss Ella Palmer, and Miss Lena M. Bryant.

The club flower is the red clover; the colors, pink and white.

The Monday Club, of Lafayette, Ind., was formed in the winter of 1886.

It is a literary organization, whose object is stated to be "the mental and social culture of its members."

Its membership is not large, but is of a refined and cultivated character.
"Self-trust is the secret of success."

Its subjects, while coming under the head of miscellaneous, have been suggestive and stimulating: "Books That Have Helped Me," "The Office of Literature," "How Shall We Learn to Talk Better?" "Is Polite Society Polite?" "Married Women in Fiction," "The Requisites of the Short Story," and a comparative study of the Constitution of the United States with those of other republics.

The open discussions on these and other topics have been an important part of the club work, and trained its members to clearness of thought and expression.

When the work is executed by club members, it usually grows in excellence, and the interest continues unabated. This has been the case with the Monday Club, and is the history of the majority of the "literary" clubs of Indiana. Charming pen-and-ink sketches used for illustration have been made for programmes written out for each member.

The Monday Club joined the General Federation in April, 1892. Its president is Mrs. W. F. M. Goss, and its membership thirty-two, and two associate. It meets on alternate Mondays, and works under several standing committees.

The Woman's Conversation Club, of Marion, started with thirteen charter members, who met and organized at the home of Miss Irene A. Cass. These ladies elected Miss Cass president, and appointed a committee to prepare a code, which was adopted. The first year there were thirty-five regular meetings. Every member was expected to give a quotation, also an item of news from the current topics of the day. Newspaper and magazine articles were discussed, and an earnest effort made to keep abreast of all important questions of the time, whether religious, political, social, or scientific. Written articles are discouraged and the conversational style adopted, which has been considered a benefit. The first year two open meetings or "gentlemen's nights" were projected. The programme for these evenings consisted mainly of humorous responses to roll-call, conundrums written upon cards, music, and anything of a light and amusing character that could be devised to suit frivolous masculine tastes. The Woman's Conversation Club adopted for its motto the significant sentiment, "Let no one bear across this threshold words spoken here in friendly confidence."

The Zerelda Reading Club organized in 1876, and has had a membership of about fifty highly intelligent women. Its studies have been drawn from various sources, but have always been of a broad and important character.

In 1892 it devoted its time to "Fundamental Truths of Political Economy," "Forces of Nature in Production," "Advantages of Division in Labor," and "Man's Dependence upon Society." These questions, comprehensively treated, alternated with discussions upon a current topic of interest, and were brightened by good music and recitations. Roll-call was answered by quotation, and the year-books showed not only good judgment in the selection of topics, but a fine literary taste enriched by good reading.

Iowa

Early Literary Clubs.—In a sketch of the early literary gatherings in Iowa Mrs. S. W. Shoup relates that: "In Dubuque, reading circles of ladies, meeting in private parlors, began to be held in the fifties. A Fénelon Street circle, on the hill, met at Mrs. Large's as early as 1857; one downtown, arranged by Mrs. Poor and Mrs. Shankland at about the same date, succeeded by a regularly organized circle, was called together by Mrs. Sol Smith in 1859. Next in point of time to these small reading circles was a club of about fifty men and women which met in the Universalist church during the years 1862 and 1863 for reading and study, and closed with a grand banquet. In 1865 the Round Table, a men's club for literary, historical, and scientific studies, was organized, and continued to meet every Saturday night for nearly twenty years. In the winter of 1868 the Conversational Club was founded on much the same lines as the Round Table."

The Conversational Club of Dubuque.—The following record has been furnished by Mrs. Mary Newberry Adams, who was its originator: "In March, 1868, six Dubuque ladies went to Galena to hear Mrs. E. C. Stanton and Miss Anthony on the need of woman's enfranchisement. In December, 1868, we concluded to unite for mutual education. Systems of education had ever been supplementary to and supporters of merely religion or government since the fall of Greece. We saw that education in a republic must become a system, an institution, for the government rested on educated minds.

"European and Asiatic governments had rested for authority on the hero; his followers on systems for controlling people to serve the head. Religions had supplemented and sustained the order of governments; but Mrs. Stanton had quickened our minds. New light came. We organized the Conversational Club as a method fitted to sustain and give vitality to our increasing and growing institution—education. Education is ever closely united with society. The trinity has been society, government, religion. We saw that a republic must have education, government, religion. All three institutions are one; their aim, safety through righteousness.

"There had been from 1857, the year of financial depression, a growing desire among women to read. The lurid political horizon portended storms;



MRS. MARY NEWBERRY ADAMS,
Founder Conversational Club,
Dubuque, Iowa

women felt the need of council in their study, to confer together on literary, religious, historical, and social topics.

"The establishment of the public library in 1856, a month after Edward Everett had spoken here, who was connected with the Boston Library; the course of home lectures to sustain our library, on subjects literary, scientific, governmental, and religious, were a marked feature as a reflex from the tractarian movement in England. The Civil War had stirred all people to thought and study; all this was an incentive to study and the formation of new opinions, a departure from fixed ideas. Formation of new ideas was a characteristic of the time. Miss Clough was inaugurating in England university education for women. Women in Dubuque said our university must be in our homes. This country is

too large to go to a place or to the professor. The learned, inspiring mind must come to our homes.

"Of the membership of the Conversational Club three were born in Ohio, one in Vermont, one in Indiana, and three in Michigan.

"The constitution reads: 'We, whose names are undersigned, agree to form ourselves into and constitute an association; the object, mental culture. It shall be called the Conversational Club.' Meetings Wednesday afternoon of each month throughout the year, and the place in our parlors. Each member had to select a subject in one of the departments to which she allied herself, though one could belong to all. Our members increased to full number in a year.

"The member shall lead in the conversation when her topic is before the club. Each subject must be announced four weeks or more previous to discussion, for members to be prepared.' Subjects were often selected months and even a year before presentation. The departments were education and local progress, political science and economy, mental and moral philosophy, the fine arts, political revolutions, belles-lettres, ecclesiastical history, natural philosophy, physical sciences: chemistry, anatomy and physiology, geography, geology, astronomy.

"Our meetings were general, each one bringing something of interest in her department, for we had families of young children and social duties, and could not give time to department meetings. Our constitution was sent to Kalamazoo by request in 1870.

"Mrs. Bagley opened her fine home for the first time for a conversation for Mr. Alcott. She and Governor Bagley then sent for Ralph Waldo Emerson to come and read and converse on poetry. They gathered a distinguished company from Ann Arbor, Toledo, Chicago, and elsewhere. I was there; and Mr. Emerson was delighted with the method—different from anything he had met before.

"It was not a club he met, but congenial persons who honored his subject. He said many fine things about it; but Mr. Alcott had been out for ten years preparing the way. I was in Detroit when Mrs. Howe came. Mrs. Bagley had a fine company to meet her, and her subject was the 'Duality of Humanity.' She read on 'Art' at Mr. Lothrop's, who has since been minister to St. Petersburg. She said to me: 'Mr. Emerson came back delighted,' etc. 'We find we have a free bureau to prepare for us and waiting congregations'; 'this is very fine not to be in a clique, but all congenial,' etc. Mrs. Cheney and her gifted daughter, Margaret, came later, and it was an inspiration to us. Judge Adams arranged for these persons in other places, as did Mrs. Bagley. My parlors were open to these and many others, as were also Mrs. Bagley's, and Mrs. Kate N. Doggett's, Mrs. Wilmarth's, and Mrs. Caroline K. Sherman's in Chicago. The father and mother of Alice French (Octave Thanet), in Davenport, were also active in these conversazioni.

"Subjects for the first year were: 'American Statesmen: Their Aid to Political Science and the Influence of Their Work on Social Progress,' several meetings; 'The Athenian Commonwealth'; 'Spirit and Progress of Italian Art,' two meetings; 'Malaria: Its Character, Cause, and Prevention'; 'Current Events,' several meetings; 'Grecian Philosophers and Their Teachings,' two meetings; 'Egyptian Civilization, Religion, Arts, Government,' two meetings; 'The Finances of Our Government'; 'The History of Financial Systems in Europe'; 'The History of Banking'; 'The German Reformation: Its Cause, Leaders, and Results'; 'The European Reformation: What Was It?'; 'The History of Railroads'; 'A Study of "Guyot's Earth and Man."'

"In 1869 there was formed an Institute of Science and Art, to prepare for the suitable celebration of Alexander Von Humboldt's birthday. We then incorporated the system of conversazioni with our club for evening meetings. We adopted subjects to suit new members, and had 'History and Practice of Medicine,' 'The Origin of Language,' 'The History of the Alphabet,' 'Mining in the United States.'

"Our number was limited to twenty-five. We seldom had over fifteen members, and the attendance was about ten.

"Mrs. Doggett, with her artistic temperament, thought that the prepared essay was necessary to gain exactness of thought, so in 1870, in Chicago, organized the Fortnightly on that plan.

"The newspapers made great fun of Mr. Alcott, because he said, when asked where should the national university be, he would answer: 'It is already begun; it is everywhere; it is where two or more are uniting for mutual help and inspiration. The university of this republic! why, it is in the parlors of appreciative women. There will be colleges out-of-doors, by the lake-side, on the mountain, as in the first century. When spirit has a new word for mankind, you will note some prophetess knows about it before the high priests; and the birth is always in unexpected time and place. The germ of a great system for general education of the people is already here. Women are nourishing it in their parlors. As in the first century, there was no welcome for the new word in the great buildings and recorded systems of the time.'

"Reading circles in churches and in women's parlors were in Dubuque for several years before the regular formation of the Conversational Club. When the club dropped the idea of an association in 1876, a member of the club, Mrs. Laura Goddard Robinson, of Vermont, wrote the constitution, and incorporated the idea of departments and an association into what is now the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association. It now has over two hundred members in separate 'classes,' but the Conversational Club still continues its meetings, but without the idea of developing into an association, as was the aim prior to 1876. We found that conversation could only be profitable and informal with a small number. Luncheons have often been in Dubuque as impromptu conversational clubs; each brings something of interest on a subject. These are the main facts in connection with the history and genesis, as we know it, of the club system for education as a part of what we hope will be in time a national institution."

MARY NEWBERRY ADAMS, *President of the Conversational Club.*

The Clio Club, of Carroll, dates from 1884, and took for its basis of " *Quanti est sapere.*" study the "States of America" in order of their admission into the Union. These were the subject of exhaustive and interesting investigation.

Like most other literary clubs, its beginning was in the real need that a certain number of women felt for some means of cultivating intellectual growth and a more useful social life.

The first objective point in all such cases is, apparently, happy accident; the development is growth external and internal of the individual members, as well as the collective body. The outlined work of the Clio, since its first course of study, has taken up the literature, art, and social characteristics of other countries, and included some interesting comparative work.

The removal of the membership limit in 1893 strengthened its position,



LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

MRS. ADELAIDE, First President

MRS. HELEN CLARK, President

MRS. LAURA WALKER, Representative Member

Cedar Rapids stands third on the list of towns in the history of the woman's club movement in Iowa.

It is picturesquely situated midway between Chicago and Omaha, and was, in the beginning, a rendezvous for horse thieves and outlaws. These, however, were soon suppressed, and the growth of the town, under a wise and strong executive, became rapid and full of promise of civic advancement. Doubtless the fact that the first large woman's organization in the State, the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association, had bent its efforts in an educational direction, and towards the establishment of a public library, inspired the women of Cedar Rapids with a desire to benefit their city in the same way.

At the time the Cedar Rapids **Ladies' Literary Club** was formed the society of the place was in a state of transition, the old and the new breaking

up into cliques, social, religious, and political, that threatened to annihilate all possibilities of unity on a higher basis.

It is not too much to say that the inspiration of the Ladies' Literary Club arrested this process of disintegration, and concentrated the work of the most cultivated and thoughtful women in an effort that became the nucleus of the social growth and intellectual development of a town with a population of twenty thousand and as distinguished now for the high character of its community, as it was in the beginning for lawlessness.

The constitution, as at first adopted, limited the membership to twenty-five, with modest fees and requirements. The income obtained was spent at once in forming a small library of valuable books; these chiefly represented Egyptian, English, and American history, American and European literature, the arts of all ages, and miscellaneous works, to which were added the newest in biography and popular science.

Its fortnightly meetings were held on Monday afternoons, and to these were added evening receptions, when gentlemen were invited. Gradually these occasions became the distinctive social and intellectual gatherings of the most cultivated people in the community.

The Ladies' Literary Club and library are housed in the Masonic Library Building, and have been the direct cause of the formation of several other clubs, among them the Tourists, of Cedar Rapids, which in the beginning was largely composed of the daughters of the senior club.



CLUB-ROOM—LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, CEDAR RAPIDS, IOWA

To the sapphire, which is the color of the Ladies' Literary Club, has been added the gold of the Tourists, and there is a close tie between the two organizations.

The Ladies' Literary Club was represented at the first convention of women's clubs in New York in 1889, and was the hostess of the first biennial meeting of the Iowa State Federation in 1895.

Cedar Rapids has been fortunate in its women leaders. Mrs. N. E. Jones has made a distinctive mark in literary and club life. Mrs. Lucia Gail Barber, one of the most popular of the presidents of the Ladies' Literary Club, and Mrs. C. D. Van Vechten, the first president of the City Federation of Women's Clubs, would be women of mark anywhere. There are also a number of women journalists, whose work has carried their names outside their own State.

The Tourist Club, of Cedar Rapids, was organized in 1881. The original plan of study was an imaginary tour of the world, country by country, with alternating programmes upon art and music. Art particularly was carefully followed from its beginnings, through its developments in ancient and modern schools of painting and sculpture, to the architecture of the present day.

The tour of foreign lands, taking in their historic and social development, occupied six years; and at the close of this course miscellaneous programmes in American history, literature, and allied topics were adopted. For eight years the Tourists elected the same president, and the growth has been constant and most delightful in its development of character and club fellowship.

The Woman's Club, of Cedar Rapids, is of late date and modern type. It was organized on the department plan, and at once gathered a large constituency.

"The unity of womanhood." The call for its formation was issued on January 28, 1895, and within one year it had reached a membership of 150 women. Its work is conducted under the heads of art, household economics, current events, parliamentary study, philanthropy, and physical culture. The motto is "The unity of womanhood."

Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association was organized in 1876, pursuant to a call issued by Mrs. Clara A. Cooley, who was made its first president.

"For still forever yawns before our eyes an utmost that is veiled." The plan of work differed from most of the early clubs; it embodied from the beginning the principle of "unity in diversity." It was an association with divisions in history, art; literature, ancient and modern, current events, and biblical study. These divisions were independent of each



other, making their own rules, but sharing in the privileges and responsibilities of the central association.

The membership is classed under these divisions, each one numbering from ten to twenty women, and each expected to be ready in its turn to furnish its quota to the entertainment of the whole body. At the quarterly meetings of the association each department is represented, or the exercises may be conducted by one, with the assistance of others.

The Ladies' Literary Association has entertained many distinguished persons at its quarterly gatherings, and has celebrated its anniversaries by banquets, to which men are invited, but where the after-dinner speaking is largely by women. Among its presidents have been women so well known as Mrs. J. B. Poor, Mrs. Caroline D. Fairbanks, Miss Mary Large Smith, Miss C. A. Wilder, Mrs. M. H. McArthur, Mrs. Ada L. Collier, Miss May Rogers, Mrs. B. M. Harger, Mrs. Frances L. Gibbs, Mrs. B. B. Richards.

A faithful worker in the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association was Mrs. Frank M. Robinson, who gave valuable service in the early days of the association, and is gratefully remembered by all who participated in its life.

Primarily, the object was distinctly studious and literary, but the association has been educational in many ways in developing the art of easy speaking, the ability to preside at large gatherings, and the power to think quickly and clearly. A marked result in a membership of nearly two hundred and fifty is the constantly growing fellowship, the disappearance of the class spirit, and the acquisition of much that makes life fuller and more complete.

The celebration of the twentieth anniversary, on January 11, 1896, was a memorable occasion. The rooms were beautifully decorated, and Mrs. Anna B. Howe, of Marshalltown, was the guest of honor. Mrs. C. A. Cooley, the founder, was introduced by the president, Mrs. Harger, and made the opening address, reviewing the beginnings of the organization and describing the striking and rapid development of its work. Mrs. J. B. Poor was introduced as one whom all delighted to honor. Mrs. Poor spoke inspiringly of the department work, its breadth and thoroughness. Mrs. Anna B. Howe, Miss May Rogers, Mrs. A. L. Collier, Mrs. J. E. Fairbanks, Mrs. S. Smith, Mrs. F. L. Gibbs, and others, were among the speakers. The "daughters" presided at the refreshment tables, which were charmingly decorated.



MRS. C. A. COOLEY,
Founder Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association, Iowa

At a meeting in November, 1893, the association paid a graceful tribute to four distinguished Western women by electing them honorary members of the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association. Mrs. Mary Newberry Adams was the proposer, and in her remarks characterized them as "Daughters of Evolution." She said: "I rise to remind this association that every home has its guardian angels; so must your clubs and councils have their honorary members. The character of a people is known by the persons they honor. To fail to appreciate greatness till history lighted by genius points it out shows a sad lack in ourselves. I have the pleasure and honor of suggesting to you three women who seem to me representative women in the sphere in which they have worked, which has been to teach women to help themselves and how to enrich their minds. These women were pioneers in the club life of women in the United States. They are now three score and ten. Before they become silent and leave us, we wish to express our appreciation of their life work. They are Daughters of the Evolution of the social education in our republic. They are Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, Kalamazoo, Mich.; Miss Katherine Merrill, Indianapolis, Ind.; Mrs. Caroline M. Seymour Severance, Los Angeles, Cal."

Among the individual forces of the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association none has been more potent than Mrs. J. B. Poor. She has been a member since its formation in 1876, and was its president in 1877, 1878, and again in 1884. She was for many years chairman of the classic literature division, and in 1889 was made the first honorary member of the association. Her papers have always been thoughtful and scholarly. One that was memorable, given in November, 1894, summarized the status and possibilities of woman, past, present, and future, in a most comprehensive and convincing manner.

Mrs. Mary Newberry Adams has also wielded an important influence, not only in the association, but in the educational work of the State. Mrs. Adams is the wife of Austin Adams, late Chief Justice of Iowa. Mrs. Adams was the pioneer club-woman in Dubuque. She founded the Conversational Club in the winter of 1868, and has been a chief promoter by speech and pen of the highest interests of women during all of her active life. A valuable paper by Mrs. Adams heard at a special meeting of the association was a learned historical study of the influence of women in the past, which she defined as "Matriotism." Mrs. Adams described the religious festival of the "Matronalia" and the ancient matriarch. She said patriotism has incited men to live and die for country and government, and matriotism has impelled women to live and work and die for humankind.

Mrs. B. M. Harger, the then president, gave Mrs. Adams an eloquent introduction, and is herself a woman of high culture and broad experience. Her papers on the "Women of the Orient" threw new light on her subject,

and her personality adds to her charm as a presiding officer. Some of the notable papers have been those of Mrs. Tredway, on "The Poet, William Watson," Mrs. Mott's "Shakespearean Essays," Mrs. Adams's study of the "Work of Women as Founders of Civilization," Miss Rogers on "Novels," Mrs. Hobbs on "American Schools."

The Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association was the hostess of the second biennial of the State federation in 1897, and signalized itself by the admirable manner in which it carried through the details of a great occasion.

Mrs. B. B. Richards was the then presiding officer, a woman of tact and ability.

Mrs. C. A. Cooley, the founder and first president, is now again the presiding officer of the association.

The association has beautiful rooms in the Odd Fellows' Temple. Its colors are ivory and rose; its motto, "For still forever yawns before our eyes an utmost that is veiled."

The Des Moines Woman's Club was inspired by the thirteenth annual congress of the Association for the Advancement of Women, which met in Des Moines in October, 1885. Twenty-one of the ladies who became members of the Association for the Advancement of Women organized as charter members of the Des Moines Woman's Club on October 14th of that year, and were incorporated July 10, 1888, with the stated object of being "an organized centre of thought and action." The twenty-five organizers became the directors for the first year, and are recorded as follows: Mrs. L. B. Abdill, Mrs. J. G. Berryhill, Mrs. Rose A. Lewis, Mrs. Ella H. Durley, Mrs. Martha Callanan, Mrs. C. H. Gatch, Miss Rachael Clarke, Mrs. A. L. Frisbie, Mrs. E. H. Gillette, Mrs. I. L. Hillis, Mrs. Julia Hunting, Mrs. J. K. Macomber, Mrs. F. A. Percival, Mrs. J. A. T. Hull, Mrs. D. E. Ruttkay, Mrs. J. H. Windsor, Mrs. J. G. Day, Mrs. J. H. McCord, Mrs. E. R. Clapp, Mrs. Martha B. Johnston, Mrs. F. W. Lehmann, Mrs. H. C. Potter, Mrs. Galusha Parsons, Mrs. R. A. Patchin, Mrs. C. H. Getchell.

The club was organized as a stock company, the number of shares not to exceed one thousand, and each member representing a share. The government is placed in the hands of the Board of Directors, chosen by written ballot every year, and from this board the president is elected by the club.



MRS. B. B. RICHARDS,
Ex-President Dubuque Ladies' Association, Iowa

There are eight standing committees: art, literature, education, household economics, social economics, history, science and philosophy, music and drama. There are also special committees on finance, printing, property, and entertainment. The meetings are fortnightly, on every alternate Wednesday; the annual dues are three dollars; the entrance fee, five dollars. In addition to the regular meetings, lectures are provided, for which tickets may be sold, and are preceded or followed by a reception to the lecturer when it is a man or woman of distinction. "Afternoon talks" are also given, sometimes by club members, others by guests, and friends of the members, as well as the members, are invited.

A special work of the club has been the endeavor to establish a permanent art collection for the benefit of the city of Des Moines. The first purchase made by the club for the collection was a bronze statuette of the Jeanne d'Arc by Chapu. This, with a marble bust of the Diana of the Louvre, were purchased as souvenirs of the World's Fair.

In 1895 the club obtained by purchase nine pictures—three portraits, three landscapes, and three marines. It is indebted to the generosity of its friends for two gifts—a copy of Corot, presented by Mr. and Mrs. Frederick Field, and a portrait of Sir Frederick Leighton, presented by Mrs. Henry Wallace. These pictures, after being temporarily in the Public Library, are now in the club-rooms. The rooms are open to the public every Saturday.

The literary work of the club is of a miscellaneous character, but thoughtful and stimulating.

Among the subjects treated have been: "The Story of a State," "The Disadvantages of the Poor in Large Cities, and Our Responsibilities to Them," "Recent Trend of Scientific Thoughts," "Some Applications of Electricity in Medical Science," "Prehistoric Man in Iowa," "Comparative Literature Study: Its Aims and Methods," "The Myth of Prometheus and Its Treatment in Literature," "Literary Coincidences."

The first president was Mrs. A. H. De France. The president now is Mrs. Virginia H. Reichard. Among the past presidents have been Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, Mrs. O. W. Garrison, Mrs. S. M. Kessler, Mrs. G. W. Cruzen.

Des Moines is a city of clubs. Among the most important is the Unity Club, organized May, 1890, with a membership of thirty; the Tourist Club, organized September, 1892, with a membership of twenty; "J. V." Club, which began in 1888 for the study of American history; membership fifteen; the Athena, which began in 1892 as a Chautauqua class, but now combines with its historical study social economics and art.

Among the Des Moines clubs belonging to the General Federation are the Woman's Club, Madeline de Scudery, Frank Russell Chautauqua Circle, Review Club, Conversational, and the Tourists, all doing good literary work,



GROUP OF PRESIDENTS OF DES MOINES WOMAN'S CLUB

MRS. VIRGINIA H. REICHARD

MRS. O. W. GARRISON
MRS. G. W. CRUZEN

MRS. A. H. DE FRANCE
MRS. S. M. KESSLER



MRS. W. L. REED,
President Unity Club, Des Moines, Iowa

and interested more or less in philanthropy and civics. The Review Club has a membership of thirty-five women; the Conversational, ten.

The Marshalltown Woman's Club received its early inspiration from the same source as the Woman's Club of Des Moines; was started about the same time and upon the same general plan. The presence of several Marshalltown women at the meeting of the Association for the Advancement of Women at Des Moines, in 1885, suggested the formation of a club with departments for literary and educational

work. It was organized on December 11th of the same year with a complete board of officers, and a membership represented in five departments: home and education, philosophy and science, travel, philanthropy, and applied Christianity. *"Neglect not the gift that is in thee."*

The Marshalltown Club differed from the club of Des Moines in not forming a stock company, but "an association for social and intellectual advancement of women." The Board of Directors consists of the general officers and ten other members, and in this board the government, membership, and general interests of the club are vested. The board appoints the committees, the chairman of each standing committee being a member of it. The chairmen of the standing committees have charge of the meetings, and provide the programmes for the work of their departments. The incorporators were: Maria C. S. Phelps, Kate R. Parker, Agnes C. Sears, Alma D. Whitaker, Anna B. Howe, Sarah B. Messenger, Caroline J. Bryant, Adella DeB. David, Alice G. Fletcher, Bertha C. French, Mary H. Knisely, Flora P. Stone, Amanda B. Wasson, Mary C. Woodworth, Mattie J. Whitton, and Addie O. Woollett.

The club grew in seven years from the first small group to a strong, working membership of nearly a hundred. The club is almost entirely literary in its aims, yet many things not now under its supervision have been outgrowths. From one of the days on "Charities" grew the Industrial School, and by the energy and perseverance of club members the Marshall County Library Association was formed, which now owns a library of seventeen hundred volumes of carefully selected books. Several courses of lectures have been conducted by the club, which have been the means of intellectual growth and of such financial success as to enable it to become the largest stockholder in the



MARSHALLTOWN WOMAN'S CLUB

MRS. NELLIE R. CADY, First President

MISS MARIA McC. GARVIN, Ex-President MRS. ANNA R. SNELLING, President

Library Association. Its influence has been unquestioned in educational directions and in bringing together all classes of women.

Its first president was Mrs. N. R. Cady; the first chairman of the art and science departments, Mrs. Anna B. Howe. Mrs. Howe afterwards became the president, but was succeeded in 1889 by Mrs. M. P. Sheeler. The presidents have been since that time: Mrs. Maria C. S. Phelps, Mrs. Alma D. Whitaker, Mrs. Maria McC. Garvin, Mrs. Mary H. Knisely, and Mrs. Anna R. Snelling. The names of all these ladies appear interchangeably as officers and in the department work, showing how they won their spurs and that official position is not a mere name. The work, indeed, has been done chiefly by members. The social features have consisted chiefly of club anniversaries, banquets, and receptions to distinguished women.

The Marshalltown Woman's Club is the "mother" of the federated movement in Iowa. It called together, in 1892, the first convention of women's clubs, although a formal State organization was not effected until April, 1893, in Des Moines.

Marshalltown has a number of women's clubs. Witenagemote started October, 1875; Hawthorne, 1878; Shakespeare Class, October, 1885; Calisopian, June, 1887; Entre Nous, January 30, 1889, as a study class; as a club, June, 1887. Most of these are reading and study clubs with special courses.

The Monday Afternoon Club, of Dubuque, Iowa, was organized October 1, 1890.

The club is divided into two departments for the study of history and literature, with special reference to Oriental and Greek civilization, German history and political economy, English history, literature, and art, American history and social institutions.

It is essentially a study club, with the object of gaining that which all well-directed study gives when aimed at—the apprehension of truth.

Mrs. Clara A. Cooley, the president from 1890 to 1896, has been very actively engaged for many years in educational and philanthropic work. Mrs. Cooley was the active founder in 1876 of the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association.

The literary work has grouped itself about "Walter Scott, Novelist and Poet," "The Lake School of Poets," "Tennyson and the 'Idyls of the King,'" "Robert and Elizabeth Browning," "The Influence of Women Writers in the Development of Modern Fiction," and the masters among English and American poets.

The officers are: President, Mrs. C. A. Cooley; vice-president, F. T. Oldt;



WOMAN'S CLUB ROOM, MARSHALLTOWN, IOWA



GROUP OF PRESIDENTS TOURIST CLUB, OF WEST UNION, IOWA

MRS. S. B. ZIEGLER

MRS. A. K. WHITE

MRS. DR. ROBINSON

recording secretary, Miss Jennie Michell; corresponding secretary, Miss L. McGregor; federation secretary, Mrs. Elliott W. Brown; treasurer, Mrs. E. L. Clark.

The Tourist Club, of West Union, was organized November 18, 1894.

"Thought once awakened does not again slumber." Its name of Tourist hardly does justice to its scope and aims. Taking one country at a time for a subject, as Russia, Japan, it studies it more from the interior than its exterior point of view; and it combines with these studies of racial difference and growth, discussions of the live topics of the day and continuous parliamentary work.

This method has given the Tourist Club, of West Union, a character for originality which its work well deserves, and made it a suggestive centre of intelligent thought.

Mrs. Maria Weed, Mrs. A. R. White, Mrs. Robinson, M.D., and Mrs. S. B. Ziegler have been among the club presidents.

THE IOWA STATE FEDERATION



It is to the Woman's Club of Marshalltown that Iowa owes the first effort looking towards a union of women's clubs.

To celebrate its seventh birthday in December, 1892, invitations were issued to all literary organizations in the State to meet and be entertained by a programme which included an address of welcome by the president of the Marshalltown Woman's Club and three-minute reports from delegates. The occasion was one of great enjoyment, and although no organization was effected at that time, the foundations were laid, and a State Board of Club Fellowship and Reciprocity established.

In April of 1893 the Des Moines Woman's Club issued a call, to which a large number of clubs responded. The convention lasted two days, and the State organization was effected with thirty-five clubs as charter members.

The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, Des Moines; vice-president, Dr. Mary Cogswell, Cedar Rapids; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Anna B. Howe, Marshalltown; recording secretary, Mrs. Margaret Greig, Clarence; treasurer, Mrs. Maria Weed, West Union; auditor, Mrs. Adaline M. Payne, Nevada.

Immediate steps were taken to unite the State Federation of Iowa with the General Federation; and it was significant of the unity of spirit in the older organizations that the largest and strongest were the first to fill the ranks of the new State body. Among these was the oldest woman's organization in the State, the Ladies' Library Association, of Mt. Pleasant, with a handsome treasury and a library of six thousand volumes.

The Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association, strong, vigorous, and original in its methods, ranked next in age to the Ladies' Library Association, of Mt. Pleasant.

The Tourists of West Union, Tuesday Club of Cedar Falls, Ladies' Literary Club of Cedar Rapids, all clubs of high character and standing, were among the first upon the list. Thus, the State Federation of Iowa started under brilliant auspices, with a fine list of officers and the following charter members: Lowell Club, Boone; Monday Club, Boone; Wednesday Club, Cedar Falls; Clio Club, Carroll; Study Club, Clarinda; Ladies' Literary Club, Cedar Rapids; Thursday Club, Council Bluffs; Columbia Circle, Clarence; Ladies' Literary Circle, Creston; Athena Circle, Des Moines; Conversational Club, Des Moines; Review, History Class, Des Moines; Frank Russell Circle, Des Moines; T. V. Club, Tourists' Club, Des Moines; Woman's Club, Des Moines; Unity Club, Monday Club, Des Moines; Ladies' Reading Circle, Glidden; History Circle, Grinnell; N. N. Club, Iowa City; Monday



OFFICERS OF STATE FEDERATION, IOWA

	Mrs. VIRGINIA J. BERRYHILL, First President
Dr. MARY W. COGSWELL, Vice President	Mrs. JESSIE M. THAYER, Corresponding Secretary
MABEL V. DIXON, Treasurer	Mrs. MARIA WEED, Chairman Correspondence

Club, Indianola; Ladies' Reading Circle, Jefferson; Witenagemote Club, Marshalltown; Woman's Club, Marshalltown; Hawthorne Club, Marshalltown; Entre Nous Club, Marshalltown; Shakespeare Club, Marshalltown; Thirteen Club, Manchester; Isabella Club, Nashua; Friday Club, Newton; Calisonian Club, Marshalltown; Woman's Club, Nevada; Tuesday Club, Oelwein; Shakespeare Club, Ottumwa; Wednesday Club, Webster City; Tourists' Club, West Union.

In an interesting letter Mrs. Mary Newberry Adams, of Dubuque, had this to say of the first president of the Iowa State Federation: "Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill is a daughter of a former regent, afterward president of Iowa State University, and is herself a graduate of that institution. She is an ideal president: impartial, quiet, and gracious of manner, perfectly capable of preserving order, and of excellent judgment in the conduct of affairs.

Her successor, Mrs. Anna B. Howe, is one of whom all Iowa women are proud for her efficient work and refined type of womanhood."

In her first address Mrs. Berryhill said: "We have been asked, 'What is the object of the State Federation of Women's Clubs?' and we reply: 'What is the object of knowledge? What is the object of effort? What is the object of patriotism? Of what use is a thought until it is expressed and becomes action? Of what use are sympathy and devotion, of courage and justice, of generosity and love, and the opportunities to cultivate them? Of what use is life?' The activities of life have been summed up into five divisions, the fourth comprising 'those activities which are involved in the maintenance of proper social and political relations'; the fifth, 'those miscellaneous activities devoted to the cultivation of the tastes and feelings.'

Men and women are nobly learning and bravely striving to develop these activities; learning to know each other, to recognize their own and each other's capacities; to learn of higher ideals and translate them into their lives."

The conventions of the Iowa State Federation are biennial, and the first, in May, 1885, was held at Cedar Rapids by the invitation of the Ladies' Literary Club of that city. It was called for two days, and opened on Wednesday morning, the 8th of May, with a large and enthusiastic representation of Iowa club-women, who, with interested visitors, filled the auditorium of the Congregational Church.



MRS. ANNA B. HOWE, OF MARSHALLTOWN,
Retiring President of the Iowa
Federation

On the rostrum, which was beautifully decorated with palms and Easter lilies, were the president of the General Federation, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin; the officers of the State federation, Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, Mrs. Mary W. Cogswell, Mrs. Margaret Greig, Mrs. Anna B. Howe, Mrs. Maria Weed, Mrs. A. M. Payne, and the president of the Cedar Rapids Ladies' Literary Club, Mrs. G. R. Skinner.

The programme included an address of welcome by the president of the Ladies' Literary Club, Cedar Rapids, Mrs. G. R. Skinner; response and address by the president of the State federation, official reports, reports of standing committees, and two-minute addresses from club presidents.

The second day was given to special addresses, election of officers, and an evening reception, closing with an address on the "Social Aspects of Life," by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin. The club reports were most interesting, some of them pathetic. One delegate said: "Our town is seventeen years old; our club is fifteen years old."

Mrs. Berryhill's address was an admirable *résumé* of the federated club idea, of its growth and the problems its development presented. A practical solution of some of the difficulties had been found in biennial rather than annual meetings, and the avoidance of complications in too many boards and standing committees.

Mrs. Lindon W. Bates, of Chicago, gave a delightful paper upon the place of the "Woman's Club Movement in Economic Evolution"; Mrs. Thayer, of Chariton, on "Village Improvement Clubs." Mrs. H. B. Windsor, the then chairman of State correspondence for Iowa, and Miss May Rogers, of Dubuque, both made addresses.

The report of the corresponding secretary, Mrs. Anna B. Howe, presented a summary of Iowa club work which was exhaustive. She said: "Those who had the strongest faith in the organization would hardly dare predict that at the first biennial the secretary could report on ninety-eight clubs, with an aggregate membership of 2,638. The Athena Chautauqua Circle, of Des Moines, has merged into another club, and the History Class of the same city has disbanded, thus leaving thirty-five charter clubs, and sixty-three clubs have been voted in by the Executive Board. The oldest club in the federation is the Conversational Club, of Dubuque, organized in 1868. The 'O. O. P.' of Marion, organized in 1869; 1876 produced the Clio, of Cedar Rapids; the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association, and the Witenagemote, of Marshalltown. Since those days Iowa women have had firm belief in the motto of the Cedar Rapids Tourists, that 'Cultivation is as necessary to the mind as food to the body,' for each year has brought forth its full quota. Fifty towns are represented in the federation. Des Moines boasts the largest number of clubs, having nine; Marshalltown eight, and Cedar

Rapids seven, other towns ranging from four to one. Only thirteen of these clubs are incorporated. The largest club is the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association—membership, 264, with \$750 in its treasury.

"The Des Moines Woman's Club—membership, 189, with \$4,000 in its treasury—is the richest club in the federation; object in view of establishing an art gallery, of which it has already made a beginning.

"Last December the club joined with the Society of Fine Arts and brought to the city a collection of paintings by American artists. The Manchester 'C. L. S. C.' and the Marshalltown Woman's Club have a membership of ninety and ninety-one, the latter being the only club reporting as having started a building fund.

"The Anakrisian Society, of Sioux City, membership six, is the smallest in numbers, but not in the amount of work it accomplishes. The membership of seventy-four of the clubs is limited; twenty-eight of them have a waiting list. Nearly all elect their officers by ballot several months before they take their seats, and the work for the coming year is planned previous to or during the summer vacation. Fifty-four clubs issue printed calendars or programmes of study annually, semi-annually, or quarterly. Thirty-seven exchange them with other federated clubs.

"The large clubs are divided into classes, departments, or committees, which generally meet weekly or fortnightly, at the home of the chairman or leader, for study in their special line of work. These classes or divisions furnish miscellaneous programmes for the regular club meetings. Clubs not divided into classes, but having miscellaneous programmes, have a programme committee, who lay out the work for the year. The Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association, the Review, the Woman's Conversational, and Unity clubs, of Des Moines; Nevada Woman's Club, Manchester Thirteen Club, Marion Cary Club, Cedar Rapids Tourists, Glenwood Woman's Club, Le Mars Pierian Club, Maquoketa Woman's Club, and Ottumwa Fortnightly, have these miscellaneous programmes, taking up literature, art, education, history, science, domestic problems, music, business, and social questions by means of original papers, lectures, and discussions.

"The Chautauqua course is occupying Boone Lowell Club, Marshalltown Hawthorne Club, Creston Progressive Chautauqua Circle, Des Moines Frank Russell Circle, Friday Afternoon Literary Club, and the 'C. L. S. C.' of Manchester.

"Boone Gradatim Club, Gliddon Ladies' Reading Circle, are studying ancient history, English history, and literature; one or both, wholly or in part, is being studied by the Brooklyn Columbian Club, Coon Rapids Woman's Club, Indianola Monday Club, North Side and Tourist clubs, of Des Moines; Dubuque Monday Afternoon Club, Ladies' Reading Circle,



A GROUP OF PRESIDENTS

MRS. CORILLA LEWIS,
President Clio Club, Chariton

MRS. CATHERINE C. TAYLOR,
President Fortnightly Club, Ottumwa

MISS FERN BROWN,
President Entre Nous Club,
Chariton

MRS. FRANK VON SHRADER,
President Tourist Club, Ottumwa

MISS GRACE M. MARSH,
President City Federation, Creston

and the Delvers, of Jefferson; Iowa City 'N. M.' Club, Clarence Columbia Circle, Marion 'O. O. P.' Club, Osage Shakespearean Club, Ottumwa Tuesday Club, Sioux City Anakrisian Society, State Centre Ladies' Reading Circle, Webster City Wednesday Club.

"Four clubs have used Louise Maertz's 'New Method for the Study of English Literature.' Maquoketa Outlook Club, Boone Monday Club, and Corning Culture Club are devoting their time to German history, the first

two combining it with the literature and art. United States or American history is occupying the attention of the Brooklyn Sorosis, Cedar Rapids Friday Club, Chariton Zetamatheans, Creston Ladies' Bancroft History Assembly, Marion and Marshalltown Entre Nous clubs, and Council Bluffs Every Thursday Club; Shakespeare' plays, the Chariton History Club, Mars Woman's Club, Marshalltown and Ottumwa Shakespeare clubs, Mt. Vernon Ingle-side Club, Newton Friday Club, and Cedar Rapids Ionians.



MRS. H. H. CLAY,
President Tuesday Club, Cedar Falls,
Iowa

"Many clubs have reported as taking one country, its history or literature, some combining the history, literature, art, social customs, music, and biography of its noted people; France, by the Cedar Rapids Ladies' Literary Club, Creston Ladies' Literary Circle, and Des

Moines Monday Club. West Union Tourist Club takes England, France, and Rome; Carroll Clio Club, Italy; Cedar Falls Tuesday Club, Hellas; Cedar Rapids Athena Club, Mexico and Greece; Chariton Cliothalian Club, Mexico; McGregor Tourist Club, Scotland; Manchester Tourist Club, Egypt; Burlington Alpha Club, Egyptian history and anthropology. This is the only club reported as studying the latter subject, and it has used an excellent list of books. Oelwein Tuesday Club takes England, Ireland, and Scotland; Grinnell History Club, European cities; Nashua Isabella Club, foreign lands—their art, literature, and music; the Creston 'C. R. C. U.,' history and authors. The Des Moines 'T. V.' Club gives as its topic of study history and travel. Roman history is being taken up by the Jefferson Ladies' Reading Circle, Marshalltown Calisopian Club, Lake City Monday Club, and Ottumwa Tuesday Club; the Victorian era and socialism, by the Cedar Rapids Clio Club; literature, by the Tama Woman's Literary Club, Toledo Woman's Club, and Marshalltown Wimodaughsis; history of civilization, by the Marshalltown Lotus Club. American authors of

the nineteenth century are receiving the attention of the Kappa Delta Club, of Shenandoah; it also reports study of old English literature, including the Paston Letters—which Charles Knight calls ‘an invaluable record of the social customs of the fifteenth century’—and writings of Roger Ascham.

“The Cherokee Columbian Club is confining itself to English and American literature; the Thevestriai, of Marion, to the drama; Winterset Current Topic Club and Emmetsburg Woman’s Club, to current events. Mason City Maria Mitchell Club is using Bryce’s ‘American Commonwealth’ and Lord’s ‘Beacon Lights of History’; the latter is used also by the Vinton Class in Literature and Iowa Falls Isabella Literary Circle; Pope’s translation of the ‘Odyssey,’ by the State Centre Reading Circle. Marshalltown Witenagemotes report having read Drummond’s ‘Ascent of Man,’ Weyman’s ‘A Gentleman of France,’ and Dante’s ‘Inferno’; the La Porte City Monday Club, Longfellow’s poems, Irving’s ‘Sketch Book’ and ‘Alhambra,’ ‘Lucile,’ and ‘Ivanhoe,’ with papers and discussions relative to their reading.

“The Parchment Club, of Iowa Falls, in addition to its other literary work, reviews twenty magazines. The Isabella Literary Club, of the same city, has a membership of twenty-six women, with their husbands as honorary members; here is a step toward the ‘ideal club.’ Most clubs introduce the study of parliamentary law—using Mrs. Shattuck’s Manual—current events, and civil government. Others report question boxes, three-minute impromptu speeches on subjects suggested by the president. One club reports an elocutionary department, each member taking her turn in giving a recitation. Many clubs are doing ‘topic work’—that is, members take a subject and study it until they can talk a certain length of time upon it without the aid of notes. The favorite time of meeting is weekly, in the afternoon, though several come together in the evening. The object of all is primarily intellectual improvement, and much good work is done; but I wish to warn you that boast of large membership, you would better look well to your laurels, for many of the smaller clubs are doing remarkable work, and issue programmes of study that are models. The motto of one of these clubs is ‘Be a light in the window if you cannot be a star in the sky,’ and that same modest club is one of the stars in our constellation. Among the flowers adopted by the clubs, the pansy, rose, and carnation are in peculiar favor, as white and gold are for colors. The annual fees range from \$5 to 25 cents; those who do not have them defray their expenses by assessment.

“Roll-call quotations are very much used. The West Union Tourists have them preserved and printed in a club booklet.

“The names of clubs are as varied as their work, but among these ninety-eight there are only five named for women—the Maria Mitchell Club, Holley

Press Club, Cary Club, the Nashua, and Iowa Falls Isabella clubs. The Manchester Thirteen Club defies fate with an unlucky number. Entertainments and lectures are frequent among the clubs.

"The Creston clubs united and gave a Shakespearean reading. One club



MRS. D. W. HIGBEE,
Vice-President City Federation, Creston, Iowa

last year had a course of seven lectures by Iowa women that was a great success; the Historical and Literary Club, of Grinnell, a course of five lectures on 'German History,' by Professor Parker, of Iowa College. Our vice-president, Mrs. Cogswell, has delivered an address on 'James Russell Lowell' before the Des Moines Woman's Club, the West Union Tourists, and the Marshalltown Woman's Club; the last two clubs have also had the pleasure of listening to Mrs. B. M. Harger's 'Impressions of Cairo and the Nile.' The Cliothalion and History Club, of Chariton, unite and have special days. Social features are extensively indulged in—club teas, banquets, 'gentlemen's nights,' when the husbands are invited; picnics, luncheons, and receptions for noted people.

"Organized in 1890, on a different basis from our other clubs, is the Holley Press Club, of Belmond, 'to promote literary attainment among its members, and to assist them in writing for the press.' It has twelve resident members and six non-resident members. Named for Marietta Holley; motto, 'Step by step we gain the heights'; emblem, holly-berries.

"Our Ladies' Library Association, of Mt. Pleasant, owns and operates a library. Carroll Clio Club solicited subscriptions, and opened, March 10, 1894, a public circulating library with 400 volumes. It now has over 600, and is still under control of the club. The West Union Tourist Club has laid the foundation for one, and donated \$75, and also organized a cemetery association. Marshalltown Woman's Club gave \$57 to the library which was started under its auspices three years ago, and now has 2,500 volumes. The Hawthorne Club, of the same city, has given \$85 to the library and \$14 to the Associated Charities. The Ladies' Literary Club and Tourists, of Cedar Rapids, and the Vinton Class in Literature have fine club libraries."

Mrs. Henrotin told the Iowa Federation that they represented the best elements in their State, and she asked them to what purpose they were going to direct their forces. She reviewed the work of the various State federations. She said that the Illinois organization was interested in literature, education, and civics; New York in education, literature, and philanthropy; Massachusetts in philanthropy; Ohio in public libraries; and she said in Maine the farmers' wives were becoming more and more interested in their clubs.

The constitution adopted at this convention stated its object, "to bring into communication with one another the various women's clubs throughout the State, that they may compare methods of work and become mutually helpful." Qualification for membership required that "constitutions of clubs should show no sectarian or political test demanded, and while the distinctively humanitarian movements may be recognized, their chief purpose is not philanthropic, but social, literary, artistic, or scientific culture."

Mrs. Maria C. Weed reported the adoption of an emblem in the form of a pendant that can be attached to the badge of the General Federation.

The Nominating Committee reported the following ticket, which was elected: Mrs. Anna Belknap Howe, of Marshalltown, president; Mrs. Mary Cogswell, of Cedar Rapids, vice-president; Mrs. Alice W. Bailey, of Des Moines, recording secretary; Mrs. Jessie Mallory Thayer, of Chariton, corresponding secretary; Miss Mabel Vernon Dixon, of Ottumwa, treasurer; Mrs. Ada Langworthy Collier, of Dubuque, auditor.

Greetings of fellowship were received from Mrs. Croly, president of the New York Federation; Mrs. Annette Phelps Lincoln, president Ohio Federation; Mrs. J. H. Canfield, president Nebraska Federation; Mrs. Henry F. Dowst, president Maine Federation; Mrs. Margaret T. Yardley, president New Jersey Federation; Mrs. Corinne M. Allen, president Utah Federation; Mrs. Laura E. Scammon, president, Kansas City, Mo.; Mrs. Isabella Laning Candee, Cairo, Ill.; Mrs. Anna Metcalf, Woonsocket, R. I.

Mrs. Ada L. Collier presented a series of resolutions to the federation from the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association, which were adopted by a majority vote.

The Dubuque Literary Association extended an invitation to the federation to hold their next biennial in that city.

The work of the State federation during the first two years was mainly



MRS. ADA LANGWORTHY COLLIER,
Auditor of State Federation, Iowa



MRS. G. F. VAN VECHTEN,
President State Federation, Iowa

educational, but philanthropy is always in evidence, and civic enterprise has a place.

A petition was presented by the federation to the State Legislature asking that the law fixing the "age of consent" at thirteen years be raised to eighteen. It was advanced to fifteen.

To the standing committees were added a reciprocity bureau and a library committee, the first for the exchange of club papers, lectures, readings, and the like, the second for the promotion of free public and travelling libraries. It was largely due to the Library Committee of the State federation that the travelling library bill which went into effect July, 1895, became a law. New York and Michigan led the way, but Iowa occupies third place upon the list.

The second biennial meeting (May, 1897) was an occasion of great interest. It was held in the city of Dubuque by invitation of the Dubuque Ladies' Literary Association. The gathering was large and brilliant, representing all the most important clubs and club interests of the State.

From the thirty-five charter clubs the federation had grown to one hundred and seventy-four, and its work had become definite, helpful, and inspiring.

The reception given to the president, Mrs. Howe, was a spontaneous and heartfelt tribute to the love felt for her and the appreciation of her work.

During her term of office she had personally visited sixty of the Iowa clubs, and had found in every direction work to be commended on educational and other lines. She closed her address by saying: "I shall always be thankful that I have known you, that I have put so much of my life into this work with you. My faith is strong that you will go on helping each other, founding libraries, beautifying villages, purifying social life, raising the standard of education, of literature and of art, until it shall be said of Iowa as Goethe said of America, 'Thou hast the best.'"

The reports of special committees were of great interest, especially those of Mrs. Alice G. Fletcher, of Marshalltown; Dr. Mary Cogswell, and Mrs. Maria C. Weed.

Addresses were made by Mrs. Doggett, of the Thirteen Club; her topic, "Then and Now"; "Individual Responsibility for Public Improvement," by Mrs. McElroy, of Newton, and "Literature in Early Education," by Mrs. Tredway, of Dubuque. "The Message of Music" was the subject of a fine paper by Mrs. J. E. Blythe, of Mason City. "Our Point of View" was

given by Mrs. J. J. Seeley, and "Our Boys and Girls," by Mrs. Grace W. Trant, of Chicago.

The presence of Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, and an informal talk from her in regard to mixed clubs, added a delightful feature to the satisfactory character of the convention.

The more serious work was interspersed with fine music, and the social features, including a reception given by the hostess club and one by the Monday Club to the delegates and guests, were evidences of the cultivated hospitality for which Dubuque is famous.

The business transacted consisted in the election of officers, the appointment of delegates to the biennial of the General Federation in 1898, and a vote to amend the section of the constitution relating to dues, which were increased. The new officers elected were: President, Mrs. Emma Van Vechten, Cedar Rapids; vice-president, Mrs. R. R.



MRS. R. R. PETERS,
President Des Moines Woman's Club, Vice-
President State Federation, Iowa

Peters, Des Moines; recording secretary, Mrs. J. E. Blythe, Mason City; corresponding secretary, Miss Jessie B. Waite, Burlington; treasurer, Miss Mable V. Dixon, Ottumwa; auditor, Mrs. Helen Hawley, Manchester.

The five delegates to the next meeting of the General Federation are: Mrs. J. S. Clark, of Des Moines; Mrs. Marian Tredway, of Dubuque; Mrs. L. E. Jones, of Le Mars; Mrs. Maria Bibbs, of Boone, and Mrs. Van Vechten, by virtue of her office.

The second biennial meeting of the Iowa State Federation adjourned, after a series of sessions memorable and inspiring to the future work.

The federation badge is a small silver pin with the word "Iowa" on blue enamel. The colors are turquoise blue and silver.



MRS. MARIAN TREDWAY,
Delegate to the General Federation,
Dubuque, Iowa

Women's Clubs in Kansas

"Now, God mend all things.
Nay, but we must help Him mend them"

is quoted from a Kansas calendar. A retrospective view by Mrs. L. W. Hale has the following :

"Had no other good been accomplished by the World's Fair at Chicago, the pleasant relations both newly formed and renewed at that time between the East and the West, and between the United States and foreign lands, would have been compensation enough for the vast expenditure of both time and money." Especially might this be said to be true of the *Woman's Department*, and of the impulse given by the women's congresses to the clubs of the country; and retrospectively the success of the congresses was assured by the previous training in the home clubs.

Among the clubs that strove that this gathering of women should faithfully represent the culture of the American woman, perhaps none were more loyal to the purpose than the women of Kansas. Leading up to the ability to enjoy the work of others, and to contribute their own, were years of patient study; and they came to the realization of the beauties of that study and the enjoyment of the "world's best" in every sense with alert minds.

Years before, their club calendars had borne for discussion such topics as the "Responsibility of Society for the Prevention of Crime," "A Higher Life for Hindoo Women," "Education for Industry," "Ten Minutes with the Russians," "When Progress Left Mt. Olympus," "The Oldest Kingdom in the World," and the like. They were ready for the women's congress which had become a fact. The "Dream of Fair Women" was realized.

The first club organized in the State was the **Friends in Council**, of the city of Lawrence (the seat of the State university), and named in honor of a club of the same name in Quincy, Ill., of which it was an offshoot.

Friends in Council was projected and organized by Mrs. B. Gray, of Kansas City, and Mrs. C. H. Cushing, of Leavenworth. Mrs. Gray was the first president.

Following soon after was the Social Science Club, of Kansas and Western Missouri, a club which at once received and has always held the profound esteem and respect of the best men and women.

Keen, progressive, travelled, scholarly, and brilliant women were glad to enroll as members, and to journey semi-annually across the State for the sake of the mental stimulus thus obtained. About it gradually sprang other clubs, and it became the nucleus around which now more than two hundred and fifty clubs centre.

The Social Science Club was an association which began with a membership of one hundred women, gathered from six different towns—Atchison, Leavenworth, Lawrence, Topeka, and Wyandotte in Kansas, and Kansas City in Missouri. The first president was Mrs. Mary T. Gray, a woman widely known, of broad culture and strong yet refined personality. Associated with her in the beginning of the enterprise was Mrs. C. H. Cushing, president and manager of the Home for the Friendless in Leavenworth, an institution which receives its inmates from all over the State.

Energetic and practical, Mrs. Cushing, as chairman of the Executive Committee, admirably seconded the efforts of Mrs. Gray, and the Social Science Club grew until it became an association of two States, and representing seven hundred women in different towns of Kansas and Western Missouri. The work was classed under seven sections—education, philanthropy and reform, history and civil government, domestic and sanitary science, literature and art, natural science, and archæology.

The work of these departments was in the hands of chairmen, many of whom left a lasting impress by their energy and research as well as by wise administrative ability in gathering the forces to carry on the work.



MRS. MARY T. GRAY,

First President of the Social Science Federation



MRS. C. H. CUSHING,

Second President of the Social Science Federation

KANSAS

Among these were Mrs. S. W. Jones, for twelve years the president of the Art League, of Leavenworth; Mrs. Noble Prentis, of Kansas City, an able writer and editor; Mrs. J. M. Kellogg, of Emporia, trained to the law, admitted to the bar in 1880, and to the Supreme Court two years later; and Mrs. Laura E. Scammon, of Kansas City, Mo., who first saw the necessity for a change of form in the Social Science Club to the broader basis of an association of clubs instead of individuals.



MRS. S. W. JONES,
President Leavenworth Art League, Kan.

The new form was really a natural growth, and had practically taken place before it was voiced by Mrs. Laura E. Scammon in a letter to the local clubs in October, 1893, calling their attention to the fact that around the women who formed the membership of the Inter-State Club had grown a number of clubs and organizations that demanded representation as such and could no longer be adequately represented upon an individual basis.

Mrs. Scammon had for four years presided over the association known as the Social Science Club, and her letter received eager and enthusiastic response.

Her first idea of a Western Federation of Women's Clubs, the "ally" of the General Federation, was subsequently modified, and at the conclusion of the annual meeting of the Social Science Association, at Leavenworth, Kan., May 2 and 3, 1895, the **Kansas** State organization, with Mrs. J. M. Kellogg, seventh president of the Social Science Club, as the first president of the State federation.

The announcement of the convention—the thirteenth of the Social Science Club and the second of the federation, which, in 1893, had taken the place of the "Club"—was accompanied by the following statement of the Executive Council:

"State federation will be discussed during the convention, with such changes of organization as would suffice to bring the Social Science Federation into line with other State federations, and every literary club in Kansas and Oklahoma is hereby invited to send two delegates, duly authorized to act. Such delegates are cordially welcome to attend all the sessions, will be entertained, and will be expected to assist in forming a State federation, if such action be taken."

The officers of the Western Federation who participated in the conven-

tion were: President, Mrs. Laura E. Scammon; vice-president, Mrs. J. M. Kellogg; recording secretary, Mrs. F. M. Hopkins; corresponding secretary, Mrs. L. W. Hale; treasurer, Mrs. H. S. Turner; auditor, Mrs. Noble Prentis.

The following clubs were represented by their presidents: The Social Science Club, Quenemo; the Travelers' Club, Burlington; the Junta Club, Emporia; the Castalia Club, Fort Scott; M. P. M. Club, Ottawa; Tuesday Morning Club, Kansas City, Mo.; Nineteenth Century Club, Kingman; Travellers' Club, Kansas City; Atlantean Club, Topeka; Sigourneyan Club, Olathe; the Ladies' Reading Circle, Girard; the Ladies' Reading Club, Junction City; Hypatia, Wichita; W. T. K. Club, North Topeka; Thursday Afternoon Club, Council Grove; Tuesday Reading Club, Chanute; Western Sorosis, Topeka; Ladies' Literary League, Abilene; Woman's Club, Hutchinson; Domestic Science Club, Hutchinson.

Mrs. J. W. Spratley was the chairman of the Local Committee of Arrangements, and the sessions were held in the First Congregational Church. Opening addresses, reports of general officers, were followed by reports of local clubs, and a discussion of the "ideal club" under the following divisions: "Club Relations to Charity, Municipal Reform, the Home and General Culture"; "Entertainments and Open Days"; "Club Courtesies"; "Limitation of Numbers"; "Papers and Extemporaneous Speaking"; "Club Dues and Business Methods"; "Courses of Study"; "Department Work"; "Parliamentary Law"; "Club Organ"; "Club Homes."

The afternoon was given to reports of new clubs, the report of the Executive Council, the annual address of the president, and a discussion of the "Ideal Federation."

Further discussion took place under the divisions: "Mixed Clubs—May they Federate?" "Club Extension—How may Federations Become More Helpful to Local Clubs?" "Local Federation."

In the evening there was a reception that was largely attended; the wives of the Governor and ex-Governor of Kansas assisting Mrs. Scammon in receiving.

The following day was devoted in part to department work. Among the papers were "Value of Kindergarten Work in Public Schools," "Science as a Basis for Education," "Conditions of Child Labor in America," "A Plea for



MRS. LAURA E. SCAMMON,
Ex-President Social Science Club, Chair-
man State Correspondence for Missouri

Legal Knowledge among Women"; from *Sanitary Science* a paper on "Domestic Sanitation." From the department of literature came "Tendencies of Modern Fiction."

These subjects were each followed by interesting discussion, and the two days' sessions closed with an address on "The Typical American Woman" and "An Evening with the Pre-Raphaelites," from the department of art, arranged by Mrs. S. W. Jones, who preceded the illustrated division of the subject with a delightful paper on "Pre-Raphaelitism."

At the conclusion of this memorable convention the motion to resolve the Social Science Federation into a State organization was made by Mrs. C.



MRS. L. B. KELLOGG,
Seventh President of the Social Science Club,
First President of the State Federation, and
Present Vice-President of that Body

H. Cushing, one of the founders of the Social Science Club. Mrs. Cushing accompanied her motion by expressions of regret and rejoicing—regret that it would oblige them to part from their beloved and honored president, who, as a Missouri woman, was no longer eligible for the position; and rejoicing that the growth of clubs and increasing populations compelled the change.

The vote in favor of the State organization was unanimous, and a State federation was formed, as previously stated, with Mrs. J. M. Kellogg, of Emporia, as the president. Other officers of the federation were: Recording secretary, Miss F. E. Hall, of Fort Scott; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. M. Curtis-Root; treasurer, Mrs. H. S. Turner; auditor, Mrs. G. W. Winans.

The departments and plan of work in the federation were kept intact, progressive ideas suggesting no improvement in the foundations. A bureau of reciprocity was organized for the interchange of books and papers among the local clubs, and as an acknowledgment of the faithful work done by Missouri women in building up the previous organization, they were made, in a body, life members of the Kansas State Federation.

The meetings of this body were made biennial, and the sex line obliterated by the adoption by a large majority vote of a resolution to admit clubs into fellowship with the State federation without sex discrimination. This important action was urged by the progressive and coöperative attitude assumed by the best class of men in Kansas towards the organized work of women.



MRS. WILLIS LORD MOORE,
Second President State Federation

The first biennial convention of the Kansas State Federation was held May, 1897, in Hutchinson, the home of its president, Mrs. Willis Lord Moore. Mrs. Moore had succeeded Mrs. Kellogg as the choice of the State at the end of the first year of State federated life, the onerous duties of State president interfering too seriously with Mrs. Kellogg's large law practice. Mrs. Moore was one of the committee appointed by the Council of the General Federation at Washington, D. C., to revise the constitution of the General Federation for the biennial of 1896, at Louisville, and was the then president of the Woman's Club of Hutchinson.

The convention was the first under the new departure of mixed clubs, and it was

Mr. J. L. George, the president of the Commercial Club, of Hutchinson, who welcomed the delegates with cordial recognition of the intellectual and moral value of such an organization to the State.

Mrs. Moore's response was followed by the presentation of a gavel in a witty speech by Prof. G. W. Winans, superintendent of schools of Hutchinson.

The general arrangement of the programme was the same as on previous occasions—an address by Mrs. Willis Lord Moore, and reports, followed by representative papers from each of the standing committees, and these by open discussion.

Mrs. Scammon in an able address urged the study of educational methods as a legitimate and important part of the club work.

The reports of the libraries, already established, or being formed through club association, were most interesting, some towns having effected a local union of clubs for such work, notably that of Kansas City, Kan.

This federation secured the city tax on dogs and appropriated it to the book fund.



MRS. HENRIETTA STODDARD TURNER,
Treasurer of the Federation for Twelve Years



MISS FRANCES E. HALL,
Recording Secretary of the Kansas State
Federation



MRS. JOHN A. (LILIAN WALKER) HALE,
Kansas City, Kan., State Chairman of Correspond-
ence General Federation of Women's Clubs

There were discussions upon club extension, the distribution of books through circulating libraries and of the best current literature through clubs, one club reporting various outlying posts of distribution where men go five miles to secure a back number of a magazine, and further opportunities along this line were pointed out to other clubs.

Sanitation, how to dress the babies, the intelligent care of young children, and the best training for those of larger growth were among the topics treated. A new feature in the federated life of Kansas was formed at Newton, December 29, 1896. This was the division of the State into congressional districts, and it was effected in response to a call sent out by Mrs. S. R. Peters, president of the Themian Club.

Twelve clubs sent delegates to the conference, and the district federations were organized with Mrs. S. R. Peters, president of the Themian Club, Newton, president; Mrs. Mercy Griffith Hammond, of Sterling, vice-president; Mrs. Belle W. Burket, Kingman, second vice-president; Mrs. A. P. Morse, Newton, secretary; Mrs. Bennett, Wichita, treasurer.

The district federations meet annually instead of biennially, as is the custom of the State federation, and were the guest of Hypatia at Wichita on the occasion of the first annual meeting.

City Federations.—The first city federation formed in Kansas was that of the ten literary clubs of Kansas City, Kan. The organization was formed primarily to secure a public library. The nucleus was provided by the Monday Club, the Travellers' Club contributing valuable books of reference.

The library is now large and important. A great deal of the work in securing it was done by Mrs. Sarah A. Rickhart, who was the first president of the city federation, and devoted many years of her life to library interests. This union of city clubs was organized in January, 1893, and antedated all other club federations in the State. Its members are: History Club, Travellers' Club, Social Hour Club, Monday Club, Central Reading Club, Ingleside Club, Alpha Bay View Club, Thursday Night Club, Grandview Shakespeare, the Neighbors.

The **Lawrence** clubs formed a city federation November, 1895, for the purpose of benefiting first the city, then the State.

Its clubs are thirteen in number. The Zodiac, one of the oldest and most advanced, organized in 1878.

The thirteen clubs number upwards of two hundred women. Topeka is also federated, as befits the capital of the State. Mrs. T. H. Church is the president, and among the eighteen clubs is the Atlantean, that shares the honor with Hypatia of being one of the two clubs represented at the first convention of Women's Clubs in New York in 1889. It was at first conducted as a class, by Mrs. L. H. Stone, of Kalamazoo, Mich., who led the work by correspondence.

Leavenworth is a strong club town, but is not yet organized in a federation.

The Social Science Club, as first organized, consisted mainly of individual members of the Saturday Club, of Leavenworth. There is, however, a Library Association, in the work of which six of the strongest clubs are united, including the Fort Leavenworth Century Club, which is one of the only two clubs of army women in the United States; the other being the Guidon Club, of the Presidio, at San Francisco.

The Leavenworth Art League is one of the largest clubs in the city; it has eighty-five members, and publishes a club paper, the *Art League Chronicle*, of which Mrs. Willis Lord Moore is editor.

Kansas proper, leaving out Kansas City, Mo., which is often considered as part of Kansas, counts up nearly two hundred strictly women's clubs, the majority "study" or "literary" clubs. Among these Abilene numbers five; Arkansas City, four; Atchison, three; Auburn, two; Burlington, five; Blue Rapids, one; Burlingame,



MRS. LUCIA E. HUNTING,
President Saturday Club, Leavenworth,
Kan.

one; Carbondale, one; Chanute, two; Council Grove, three; De Soto, one; Emporia, ten; Fort Scott, six; Fredonia, four; Girard, two; Halton, four; Topeka, thirty-four; among which are the Junia, Atlanteans, a Topeka Sorosis, a Friends in Council, and others representing the early club life.

Solomon City has a Reading Circle; Newton, eight clubs; Minneapolis, the same number; Manhattan, four clubs; Lincoln, a Social Science Club; Hutchinson, five; Hiawatha, a Saturday Club; Paola, three clubs; Ottawa, eleven; Osawatomie, the Entre Nous; Osage City, three; including the Hesperian; Olathe, two; Seneca, one; Phillipsburg, two; Selina, two; Hayes City, one; and Junction City, one. Wichita has six clubs, including Hypatia, one of the oldest; Winfield, four; Whitewater, one; Waverly, two; and Waterville, one formed for the study of American literature. Kingman has its Nineteenth Century Club; Lawrence, seven clubs, including Friends in Council, the famous Zodiac, Round Table, No Name, and Ladies' Literary League.

The club life of Kansas represents an almost infinite variety, but it stands for the best work that has been done in the State all along the lines of intellectual culture and educational advancement. It has stimulated thought, built up libraries, improved conditions, and created an atmosphere in which the best elements of social life thrive and multiply.

The clubs issuing very neat year-books are: Friends in Council, Lawrence; Hypatia, Wichita; Saturday Club, Hiawatha; S. L. K., Troy—a very old club; M. P. M., Ottawa; Monday Club, Kansas City.

The number of those taking the progressive steps, perfecting more formal organization and printing their records, is constantly increasing, and no statement can be accurately made of numbers or methods. But it can be truly said that all over the State, wherever the homes of club-women are found, there are the best books, the latest magazines, good pictures (if any) upon the walls, and abundant evidence of the standard which the Kansas club-woman has set for herself and the measure of attainment which she has reached.

Among the club-women who have done most for the club life of Kansas is Mrs. Mary T. Gray, first president of the Social Science Club; Mrs. C. H. Cushing, associated with her for many years, a "tireless" woman, energetic and practical; Mrs. S. W. Jones, for fifteen years president of the Art League, of Leavenworth, a woman of great dignity, tact, and wide culture; Mrs. Noble Prentis, of Kansas City, a graceful and able writer, who has for some years edited the woman's department of the *Assembly Herald*, the organ of the Chautauqua Circle held each year at Ottawa. For this meeting Mrs. Prentis draws upon the clubs of the State for lectures upon the topics of the day.

As a practical exponent of the theory and practice of business for women, Mrs. Jennie Mitchell Kellogg is perhaps the leading example. Born in Ohio, she went to Kansas in 1863. With a mind naturally logical and incisive, she turned to the study of law, was admitted to the bar in 1880, and to the Supreme Court two years later. Her legal knowledge has been of great benefit to the clubs of the State in her presentation of the subject of common law for women. Mrs. Kellogg is her husband's partner in the practice of her profession in the city of Emporia, the seat of the State Normal School and of the College of Emporia. The firm name reads "L. B. and J. M. Kellogg."

The clubs of Kansas are incorporated into both State and district federations. The number of clubs recorded at the time of writing (November, 1897) was 191, distributed among forty-five towns. To these, in addition to those already mentioned, Parsons contributes three; Peabody, two; Quenemo, a Social Science Club; Winfield, four—Rossetti and three others; Waverly, the Tuesday Evening Club and Day Star Daughters.

A letter from the State president, Mrs. J. C. McClintock, of Topeka, after speaking of the work of the Social Science Club, proceeds:

"As you see, education has been one of our departments from the beginning, dating back to 1881, and has always been an important feature of each programme at the annual meetings. Many of the local clubs have held educational meetings, in which the interests and needs of their own particular locality have been defined and considered, with a view to aiding and supplementing the work of the teacher.

The Kansas Social Science Federation held an educational meeting in Topeka, December 30, 1897, to which the teachers then in attendance at the convention of the State Teachers' Association were invited—called a joint meeting of teachers and club-women.

It was a great success in every respect. A feeling of mutual interest and assistance was established between the teachers and club-women. This co-operation cannot but be beneficial to the educational interests of our State.

Education was considered under its four aspects of mental, moral, physical, and artistic development.

Three papers were given—on "Manners and Morals," on "Physical Culture in the Common Schools," and on "Art in the Schoolroom." Each was fine in its way, abounding in practical suggestions for a mutual coöperation of teachers and club-women. Discussion on these subjects was prompt and effective by teachers and club-women, very effectually showing the sympathy of the audience with the thought of the session. A report on the travelling library movement was made. This awakened great enthusiasm, as all could see the benefit which would result if this movement could be successfully carried into execution.

A number of gentlemen were present, not merely as interested observers, but participating in the discussions.

One gentleman, a prominent educator, who at one time held the important office of State superintendent of public instruction, said: "This is the very best meeting of the entire sessions of the State Teachers' convention, and will result in more practical good to the teachers and schools than all the rest of the sessions put together."

"The field is a wide one, but we do feel that important work is being done, and that much credit is due to the pioneers in this movement, who in the early days established and fostered the Social Science Club, which has opened the path of progress for the Kansas Social Science Federation.

"R. MCCLINTOCK,

"President Kansas State Social Science Federation."

Kansas State is now organized as the Kansas State Social Science Federation. Its officers are: President, Mrs. J. C. McClintock; vice-president, Mrs. S. R. Peters; recording secretary, Miss J. M. Walsh; corresponding secretary, Mrs. D. W. Nellis; treasurer, Mrs. H. P. Wilson; auditor, Mrs. Selwyn Douglas.

The State federation is now affiliated with the General Federation.

A letter from the president to the clubs at the close of 1897 summarizes the suggested work:

TOPEKA, KAN., *November 1, 1897.*

Dear Madam President: Another club year is upon us, and the Kansas State Social Science Federation feels the stir of activity throughout the various clubs that form its membership. Many complete outlines of work have been arranged for the winter programmes, showing that the life and activity of the organization continue to increase. For this happy outlook I congratulate you.

May I hope for your coöperation in the special work of the year, as planned by our common leaders, the officers of the General Federation of Women's Clubs? Pursuant to a recent request sent by them to the State federations, an educational meeting has been called, to be held in Topeka on the afternoon of December 30th, during the session of the State Teachers' Association, for the purpose of bringing the teacher and club-woman into closer relations.

During this meeting, papers will be read and discussions opened upon educational methods in their fourfold relations toward physical, mental, moral, and artistic development. I earnestly request that you take notice of this meeting in your regular conference. If your club has members engaged in public school work, who will be in attendance at the State Teachers' Associa-

tion, will you not kindly request them to take part in these discussions, and thus voice the interest of your club in these matters?

Faalty to this larger unity demands that as far as practicable we as a State federation shall coöperate in these plans.

For the further coöperation with the recommendation of the General Federation that "education should be a central subject of all clubs and State federations," I suggest that one session of your club be given to this work, an educational day, in which the needs of the schools of your locality be discussed, to the end that you may work from the outside to help the teacher on the inside to improve the schools in relation to better lighting, heating, ventilation, sanitation, and more cheerful and artistic surroundings.

Another suggestion I wish to bring before you pertains more to the progress of our State federation. Recognizing the necessity for exact business methods in the conduct of the annual meeting, and that a correct knowledge of parliamentary usage would be an important factor in gaining time to carry out the work and ideals of the State federation, and that readiness in routine proceedings lightens the work of the officers, increases the interest of the members at large, and gives pleasure and enthusiasm to meetings that might otherwise become tedious, I venture to recommend that every club (unless already proficient in that practice) shall, from time to time, resolve itself into a parliamentary meeting, until its members are trained in parliamentary rules.

You are aware that at the last annual meeting in Hutchinson, the *Art League Chronicle* was made the official organ of the Kansas State Social Science Federation. Loyalty to this organ is urged upon the clubs of the State federation; and all clubs are asked to use the columns of this paper to extend a knowledge of club life and club work.

An art bureau for the purpose of making a collection of pictures for distribution to illustrate the courses in art, published by the federation, will be established if it is ascertained that a sufficient number of clubs are pursuing these courses.

The reciprocity bureau is an assured fact. Each club is asked to contribute two of its best papers of each year to this bureau for exchange. Mrs. S. R. Peters, of Newton, is chairman, to whom papers should be sent.

It is the desire of the Executive Board of the Kansas State Social Science Federation that steps shall be taken toward securing legislation looking to the establishment of State travelling libraries for the benefit of club-women. If this can be done, it will materially aid in club extension, the special interest of the Kansas Federation. To accomplish this, it is necessary that each club-woman shall use her personal influence to create a public sentiment in favor of this movement. The matter is at present in the hands of a committee, who will formulate plans to further the interests of this project.



WHERE HYPATIA MEETS

With a sincere desire for the good and best interests of each individual member and club of our organization, I am, dear Madam President,

Cordially yours,
MRS. JOHN C. MCCLINTOCK,
President.

Hypatia.—The club idea for women in Wichita took form in 1886. On January 19th of that year a few women met in answer to a call for the expressed purpose of forming a woman's club. The organization was effected at a subsequent meeting, with Mrs. M. E. Lease, president; Mrs. Baldwin, vice-

president; Dr. L. A. Stevens, secretary, and Mrs. E. G. Shields, treasurer.

The constitution stated that "We, the undersigned women of Wichita, Kan., do hereby form ourselves into an association for the promotion of better and more intimate acquaintance with women of artistic, scientific, literary, and business tastes. *"The kingdom of thought has no enclosure."*

"This association shall be social and educational in its nature, and include the following committees: science, art, music, journalism, business, philanthropy, house and home, drama and literature."

The meetings are held on alternate Mondays; one meeting being a business meeting, the next an open meeting, to which the members have the privilege of inviting two guests. The programmes of the open meetings consist of papers, discussions, conversational talks, music, recitations, which are usually assigned by the Executive Committee, following the outline of work arranged at the beginning of each year by the president.

The presiding officers of the club have been: Mrs. M. E. Lease, Mrs. J. M. Foster, Mrs. Ella G. Shields, Mrs. Mary C. Todd, Mrs. S. A. Toler, twice elected.

Mrs. Toler is a writer of note, and has been president of the Western Authors' and Artists' Club, a distinction shared by some



MISS MABEL MILLISON,
Hypatia's "Girl President," Wichita, Kan.

of the foremost literary men in the West, but held by only one woman. Other presidents have been: Mrs. J. K. Bennett, Mrs. L. R. Priddy, Mrs. S. L. Hersey, Miss M. Millison, and latest, Mrs. M. W. Buckner.

Among the questions discussed have been "Farm Life *vs.* Town Life," "Past, Present, and Future of Women," "Buried Cities of Central America," "American Women of Letters," "Window Gardening," "Are Women Frivolous?" "Dress Reform," "Is Coöperative Housekeeping Practical?" "Idioms of the East and West," "Russian Literature," "Is the World



MRS. T. M. COMEGYS,
Founder of Hypatia



MRS. J. M. FOSTER,
A Former President of Hypatia

Growing Better?" "The Race Problem," "German Literature," "Domestic Economy," "Egyptology," "Cranks of All Times and Climes."

Hypatia has entertained many distinguished men and women. It was the hostess of the Social Science Club of Kansas and Western Missouri on the occasion of its ninth annual meeting.

It sent as a delegate Mrs. Mary C. Todd to the twenty-first anniversary of Sorosis, and the club is a charter member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, organized at that convention.

Hypatia still has members who have remained with the club from the beginning and "know that they have received new life from the appreciation, the interchange of ideas and the sympathetic association of women eager to know and do that which is best and noblest." . . . "Thanks to the system of club correspondence, Hypatia has grown from a handful of timid women into a body known and recognized not only over our State, but in other States."



MRS. MARTHA COLLINGS,
Charter Member of Hypatia

Hypatia has grown from its first charter membership of nine women to a body of fifty-seven active workers and six honorary associates. Among its members are some of the brightest, most progressive women of the State—lawyers, physicians, musicians, and writers. It belongs to the State and national federations, and publishes a handsome year-book.

The president (1897-98) is Mrs. Mary W. Buckner, who has succeeded Miss Mabel Millison, known widely as Hypatia's "girl president." The meetings are held on alternate Mondays, and the work is carried on under three departments—literature, home, and education.

The first city federation formed in Kansas was organized in Kansas City, Kan., January, 1893. Mrs. S. A. Richardt was its first president.

Nine clubs united in this organization for the purpose of building up a public library. It secured a State charter, and has accomplished its purpose, being now in possession of a fine library, which is put to public uses.

In August, 1896, it secured the passage by the city council of an ordinance appropriating to the use of the library the tax on dogs and fines for other animals impounded, with such provisions as make the act legal under the statute. This nets a handsome sum yearly.

Leavenworth is one of the most active club towns in the State.

The Saturday Club is one of the oldest in the State, and is, in a way, the mother of the State federation, as the Social Science Club was organized chiefly by individual members of that club. The oldest member, Mrs. Mayo, is the oldest club-woman in Kansas, being past eighty and still an active "club-woman."

The Library Association is composed of six of the strongest clubs.

There is a Jewish Woman's Club at Leavenworth; the rabbi's daughter is its president. The city also has a Catholic Literary Club.

The Woman's Club, of Hutchinson, is an organization that has done good work for its city and for the State. Among its gifts to the city are a park and fountain and the foundation of a public library. It works coöperatively with the city in the distribution of public charities.

Kentucky

The State Federation of Women's Clubs in Kentucky was organized at Lexington July 10, 1894.

In response to an invitation from the clubs of Lexington to the women's culture clubs throughout the State, there assembled at Normal Hall Chautauqua grounds on July 9th representatives from fifteen literary, art, and musical clubs, whose purpose was to assist in the organization of a State federation of such clubs as aimed at higher social and intellectual standards for women. Mrs. H. B. Scovell, of Lexington Sorosis, was called to the chair, and Mrs. Sarah Marshall, of Lexington, was appointed secretary.

The order of procedure, as presented by the president, consisted of reports from delegates, three-minute talks upon subjects bearing upon club work, and the formal organization of the State federation.

This order was preceded by a welcome, through the chairman, from the Lexington clubs and remarks upon the purpose of the meeting.

Fifteen clubs reported, in the following order: Fortnightly Club, of Lexington; the Woman's Club, of Louisville; Travellers' Club, of Shelbyville; Art Club, Covington; Fortnightly Club, of Louisville; the Alumnæ of the Louisville High School, Lexington Musical Club, Beacon Lights Circle, Daughters of the American Revolution, Paris Literary Club, Paris; the M. C. Club, Winchester; Literature Club, Louisville; Lexington Sorosis; Study Class, Jr., Versailles; Study Class, Sr., Versailles.

After the reports the meeting was opened for informal discussion, and a letter read from Mrs. Henrotin, president of the General Federation, by Mrs. C. P. Barnes, of Louisville, which, upon motion of Mrs. Mary Gratz Morton, received a vote of thanks. The motion to proceed to the formation of the State federation was seconded, and after discussion adopted.

The chairman then proceeded to appoint a committee of three, subsequently increased to five, to draft a constitution and by-laws. Mrs. Anna C. Bowser, of Louisville; Miss Jennie D. McKee, of Covington; Mrs. Clarence Mathews, Mrs. C. P. Barnes, and Mrs. A. H. Harrison were named as this committee, with instructions to use the constitution of the Iowa Federation as a model. An adjournment was then made till the following day, July 10th,

when the report of the Committee on Constitution and By-Laws was submitted and adopted.

The adjournment was for luncheon offered by the Lexington clubs to the visiting delegates.

Upon reassembling, the roll was called, to which eighteen delegates responded. The election resulted in the choice of the following officers: President, Mrs. Mary Gratz Morton; vice-president, Mrs. Anna C. Bowser; recording secretary, Mrs. Florence Kelley Lockhart; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Josephine Carter; treasurer, Miss Jennie D. McKee; auditor, Mrs. Jason Walker.

The literary programme of the afternoon included "The Spirit of the Times," by Miss E. S. Kinhead, Lexington; "Lowell as a Prose Writer," by Miss Mary Johnstone, Louisville, and a report of the General Federation meeting at Philadelphia by Mrs. C. P. Barnes.

Cordial votes of thanks were passed to the hostess clubs and also to Mrs. Scovell for her services as presiding officer. It was voted that the Kentucky Federation apply at once for membership in the General Federation.

The object of the State federation, as given in the constitution, is: "The quickening of interest along all lines of intellectual growth through the inspiring and energizing conferences of the various women's clubs of the State that work for a broader culture and the higher education of woman."

Membership is limited to those clubs having for their object literary, artistic, or scientific culture, and the president of each federated club is a vice-president of the State federation.

The first annual meeting was held in Richmond, Ky., on June 20th and 21st, in the Madison Institute. On this occasion twenty-five clubs reported, and to the delegates was added a guest of honor in the person of Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, the president of the General Federation.

The Musical Club, of Richmond, was the hostess of the occasion, and the cordial welcome was given by its president, Mrs. R. Burnham, and responded to by the president of the Kentucky Federation, Mrs. M. G. Morton.

The usual reports were followed by two-minute talks from the club-women present on "What are the Greatest Needs of a Woman's Club?" The discussion was led by Mrs. C. P. Barnes, the recording secretary of the General Federation, in the absence of Mrs. C. A. Leach, who prepared the divisions of the subject for discussion.

The greatest needs, as stated, were: "To utilize a specialist"; "Accuracy in the use of terms"; "Promptness of response"; "Criticism should be made in the club at the proper time, not outside of club hours"; "Proper use of parliamentary laws, in the spirit that maketh alive and not in the letter that killeth"; "A motion should never be passed until it has had careful

consideration by the body"; "Each member must feel herself responsible for the progress and success of the club."

A motion was subsequently made and passed that all the influence possible be used with editors and publishers to suppress the accounts of murders, suicides, and sensational exaggeration in daily papers, so that they may be fit to enter the family.

The evening session opened with music, but the principal feature was an address on "Organization" by Mrs. Henrotin, who began by saying "that three great movements had characterized the development of society since the disruption of the Roman empire—nationality, individuality, and organization."

At the conclusion a reception was given in the parlors of the Madison Institute by the officers of the Musical Club to the officers of the State federation, Mrs. Henrotin, and the visiting delegates.

The morning of June 21st was given to the reports of local clubs, and a discussion of the biennial to be held in Louisville in the following May, 1896. The election followed, resulting in a vote for all the officers of the previous year.

The report of the chairman of State correspondence at Louisville summarized the clubs as follows: "Kentucky has increased in federated clubs four and a quarter fold since the last biennial report—having now seventeen.

"They are sitting in goodly companies from twelve to three hundred and fifty, all over the State, every week-day from October to June. Ten hundred and fifty federated women gather up the fragments that remain and dispense them to as many homes for the benefit of the excluded ones there.

"Ten clubs, Harrodsburg College Street Club, Lexington Fortnightly, Transylvania, and Sorosis, Louisville Monday Afternoon Club, Mayfield Magazine Club, Nicholasville Acme Club, Owensboro Married Woman's Club, Shelby County Woman's Club, and Versailles Wednesday Club, are home parlor clubs, working along the lines of social culture, literary, and miscellaneous study. Their mottoes show a common incentive—for example: '*Licht, mehr Licht*';

"'Tis life whereof one's nerves are scant;
More life and fuller that I want';

'That we may have life, and have it more abundantly.'

"Four clubs, Hampton Club, Magazine Club, Woman's Club of Shelby County, and Woman's Club of Central Kentucky, include the study of music.

"One, Art Club, of Covington, is unlimited to those initiated in the secrets of black and white, oil and water colors.

"One, Traveller's Club, of Shelbyville, takes under consideration travel and customs only.

"Two, High School Alumnæ and Hampton Club, of Louisville, are organized alumnæ of honored institutions, pursuing many lines of work.

"One, Woman's Club of Central Kentucky, has an active membership covering seven counties, and occupies tasteful parlors for the exclusive use of its various departments.

"One, Woman's Club of Louisville, is our only corporate body, and it will ever be held in gratitude for having brought the biennial to our doors."

The third annual meeting of the Kentucky Federation was held in the college chapel of Harrodsburg, June 10, 11, and 12, 1897.

The first session was an afternoon meeting, and was occupied by the address of welcome, the president's address, the report of Committee on Credentials, and three-minute reports from local clubs.

In the evening an audience of both men and women listened to papers upon "Ethics of the Beautiful," by Mrs. James Kennedy; "Art in School-room, Home, and Street"; in a series of short talks, and papers upon "Folk Songs," "Influence of Music," and "Higher Education in Music," the last two followed by discussion. These were interspersed by music, vocal and instrumental, illustrative of the themes.

Friday morning was given to reports of special Committees on Reciprocity, Travelling Libraries, and Free Libraries. Discussion followed these reports.

"Mountains of Kentucky" was the subject of a charming paper by Mrs. C. P. Barnes, and "Heredity and Environment" by Miss Burgin. The discussion was led by Miss Gibson.



MRS. CORNELIA O. HANSFORD,
President of Kentucky Federation of
Women's Clubs

In the afternoon there was an address by Mrs. Ida Harrison, and papers upon the "Pioneer Women of Kentucky," by Mrs. John Galloway, and "Realism in Literature," by Mrs. M. T. Banes.

The College Street Club gave a reception to the delegates in the evening, which was greatly enjoyed.

The election took place on the following morning, resulting in the choice of president, Mrs. Cornelia O. Hansford, Harrodsburg; vice-president, Mrs. A. P. Humphry, Louisville; recording secretary, Mrs. H. C. Muir, Nicholasville; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary Shipp, Owensboro; treasurer, Mrs. I. W. Harrison, Lexington; auditor, Mrs. M. S. Armstrong, Shelbyville.

A recent letter from the president, Mrs.

Hansford, says: "There are thirty-three clubs in the Kentucky Federation. Others will probably be added by June, 1898, but the growth is slow. There are many literary and musical clubs in the different towns in the State, but they do not as yet realize the importance of unity in the broader sense. The clubs now federated are composed of strong, earnest women, who do honest work in their particular lines and are loyal to the State and General Federations."

The following letter is from the chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation, and summarizes the work to date:

DECEMBER 31, 1897.

Prior to the Centennial of 1876 there were few women's clubs in Kentucky. The majority of the organizations known by the name of club were composed of both men and women, and although the ostensible object may have been the study of music or art, the social feature was invariably predominant.

Immediately following the Centennial, women's clubs and study classes were organized in various parts of the State. The fact that some of these clubs kept a lease on life during the intervening years, and were eager to enter the General Federation of Women's Clubs upon its organization, shows that they had already learned the value of united effort.

Appreciating the larger outlook gained by association with the General Federation, the clubs still realized the need of coming into closer relation with each other and of making common cause in any work that might be of positive value to the community at large. The State federation seemed to answer this need, and in July, 1894, in response to an invitation from the women's clubs of Lexington, representatives of fourteen clubs met and organized the Kentucky Federation of Women's Clubs. The federation now numbers thirty-four clubs, with a membership roll of thirteen hundred. It is a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and is a debtor to that body for guidance and suggestion as well as for much of the enthusiasm that has characterized all its work.

While working along educational lines, the special undertaking of the Kentucky Federation is the establishment of libraries throughout the State. With the hope of securing the coöperation of the Legislature a bill has been prepared for the consideration of that body looking to the establishment of a library commission.

Already several travelling libraries have been sent to the isolated counties of the mountain districts, and have been eagerly welcomed by the people.

The indirect work of the federated clubs has been far-reaching and has resulted in the organization of civic leagues, alumni associations, and study

classes in a practical, businesslike manner that augurs well for future usefulness.

As many of these bodies are composed of both men and women they are unfortunately not eligible to membership in the General Federation, but they are none the less the outgrowth of the federation and are eloquent witnesses of its influence and power.

Wherever there is a woman's club it is recognized as an important factor in the community, a power for good that is appreciated and respected. The clubs, with a feeling of loyalty to the State and through the State to the General Federation, are constantly reaching out to do more work and better work, and each year's reports show a gratifying advance both in the method and character of work accomplished.

J. D. McKEE.



The Alumnae Club, of Louisville, consists of members of the Alumnae of Louisville High School. It has a membership of about two hundred and fifty women and twenty honorary. The object is "united effort on the part of those acknowledging a common alma mater for self-improvement, for the progress of the organization, and for the best and highest interests of the community."

The first organization was made in 1878. The originator was Prof. Josephine B. Chase. Prof. W. H. Bartholomew also greatly aided in the early work. In September, 1890, the president, Mrs. Henry Escott, proposed the building of an Alumnae Hall. The plan, which was adopted with enthusiasm, looked toward the establishment of a library and the foundation of lectureships on literature and art. The hall was to be their own hearthstone, but its privileges would be extended to other bodies of women.

In 1894 a committee was appointed, Miss Anna J. Hamilton, chairman, to draft a new constitution. The adoption of this made the Alumnae in effect an institute of women, working with organized departments for the study of literature, art, music, education, philanthropy and reform, and science. A board of directors, consisting of seven members, with the president *ex-officio*, appointed chairmen of standing committees and assigned dates for their different programmes. These chairmen have furnished able papers and discussions. The Art Committee threw open its entertainments to the public, showing many fine works executed by members of the Alumnae.

The Alumnae, at the suggestion of Professor Bartholomew, undertook a series of "Historical Excursions." These, which were very valuable, were conducted by Professor Bartholomew, Col. Bennett H. Young, and Colonel Durrett. Another enterprise is an Arboretum at Cherokee Park. The work is a source of State pride and educational privilege. The Enter-

tainment Committee furnishes lectures from the most noted men in the country.

The first stone for Alumnae Hall was laid with the proceeds received from two lectures given by a member, Mrs. Hailmann, the distinguished president of the American Kindergarten Association.

The regular meetings are monthly; the programmes arranged under the direction of Committees on Literature, Art, Music, Education, Philanthropy, and Science. Each chairman must report in June her plan of work for the forthcoming year to the Board of Directors, and each chairman prepares a yearly report showing what has been accomplished.

The business portion of each meeting precedes the literary programme, and is limited to forty-five minutes.

Chairmen have the privilege of forming classes in connection with their work at the expressed desire of a given number of persons, either in or outside the membership. The classes are absolutely free to all.

The dues are one dollar per year; the first is paid as an entrance fee.

An auxiliary club has been the outgrowth of the Committee on Philanthropy, which has formed classes for practical work.

The Arboretum Committee is another outgrowth. It consists of five members, three of whom must be members of the club. Its duty is the care and preservation of trees on the public highways of Louisville, to coöperate with the park commissioners in the establishment and preservation of an arboretum at Cherokee Park, and to aid in the enforcement of all ordinances pertaining to said trees, and the establishment of new laws if necessary.

The president of the Alumnae Club (1897) is Miss A. J. Hamilton; vice-president, Mrs. E. B. Woodbury; recording secretary, Miss Olla Stuber; corresponding secretary, Mrs. S. W. Maury; treasurer, Mrs. L. M. Sherrill.

The Alumnae Club joined the General Federation in May, 1894; Kentucky State Federation in June of the same year, and the Louisville Council of Presidents of State Federated Clubs in 1896.

Covington Art Club dates from 1877. In its earlier days it was largely a social organization for the study and practice of decorative art as its leading motive. At intervals the members exhibited their own work in oil and water-color, china painting, charcoal drawing, and artistic needlework. Later the meetings became regular, once a month, with some form of literary entertainment relating to art. At the same time the exhibitions were made annual, and soon achieved public interest and importance. The season of 1891-92 was a productive one. "Art Experience Abroad" was given by a member who had returned from a year's study in Europe. The question was discussed whether a specialized career tends to narrow one's views. The his-

tory of caricature was studied, with an illustration of a society girl, among others, and her necessary limitations.

"The Relation of Photography to Art," with illustrations by the members; the styles of work suitable for reproduction, and book illustration, were among the interesting and practical subjects discussed by the club.

The annual reception and exhibition in December of that year were larger and of greater merit than ever before, and awakened a lively interest in the club and its work.

The following year the study of architecture was undertaken, and proved of great value.

One of the requirements during the year is an original design or sketch from each member of the club, bearing upon the general subject in hand.

The work undoubtedly gave an impulse to the art work of others of the Kentucky clubs formed about the same time or after.

The Fortnightly, of Lexington, organized less than two years later, and consisted of about twenty members, active and honorary, who made the literary study of art the most prominent feature.

Eliminating the practical side of the work, the members devoted themselves to the study and discussion of French art and artists as represented by Corot, Millet, and others of the modern school, English pre-Raphaelitism, and the work of Burne-Jones and contemporaries.

Ruskin led to Matthew Arnold and the school of modern critical writers, thus furnishing much food for thought.



SUSANNA H. L. AVERY,
Founder Woman's Club of Louisville, Ky.

The Woman's Club of Louisville.—In March, 1890, thirty-eight earnest women met at the call of Mrs. Susanna H. L. Avery in the parlors of her spacious house on the corner of Fourth and Broadway, and organized the Woman's Club of Louisville. The object of the club to be, "Mutual sympathy and counsel, and united effort to further reform and improvement in the community in which we live." Mrs. Patty B. Semple was the first president, and her admirable management and rare intelligence raised the club to the high place that it has since occupied.

The work of the club is carried on by means of four departments, viz.: art, education, economics, and literature.

Many public endeavors have received

its support and coöperation. In 1890 it sent a memorial to the constitutional convention, praying that all lottery franchises be repealed. In 1891 it presented a petition to the Mayor and City Council asking for matrons in jails and station houses. In 1892 it presented a petition with over five hundred signatures to retail merchants asking seats for shop-girls. In this year it joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

In 1893 it sent a petition to the Legislature asking that the age of consent be raised from twelve to eighteen years.

In January of 1893 it petitioned the legislature to grant the women of Kentucky equal property rights, the power to make wills, and the equal custody of their children.

In December of 1893 it gave a free exhibition of impressionist pictures, in which many of the most noted impressionists of the world were represented. In 1894 it did splendid relief work in connection with the charity organization—giving employment to several hundred women and distributing nearly two thousand garments. In this year it also sent a delegate to assist in forming a State federation.

It entertained the General Federation of women's clubs on the occasion of the third biennial, the largest up to that date in its history.

The work of the local committees was complicated by the arrangement of the convention meetings in sections and the classification of the States for the first time under their respective banners and State chairmen. The task of providing for the great delegation from all the States and representative officers was, of course, enormous to a club not of very large size and in a city of comparatively modest proportions. But it was satisfactorily performed, as reference to the records of the General Federation shows.

Great as it was, the task was rendered comparatively easy by the cordial coöperation of the club-women of Louisville and its neighborhood, and by the prompt good-will with which every one filled the post assigned her.

The encomiums lavished on Southern hospitality were fully justified on this occasion. All were provided for, and the business details were so anticipated as to excite surprise and admiration. Nothing was left undone. Delegates and visitors were met at the station by their hostesses, and at once taken to charming homes, where every comfort was provided.



MRS. FATTY B. SEMPLE,
First President Woman's Club of
Louisville, Ky.

In addition to the large general reception and dinners to representative officers, a committee of club members gave afternoon receptions to the representatives of each State, and the section meetings were provided for in such a way that several in as near proximity as possible could be open at the same time.

It was a great work for one club to accomplish, but it was done without sign of weariness and left a memory without a flaw. There are no consecutive courses of study in the scheme of the Louisville Woman's Club work, but the subjects are at all times interesting and suggestive. During the past year, "The Possibilities of the Great West" and the "Problems of the American Farmer" have been discussed in the department of economics.

In literature Wordsworth and Browning have been discussed from several points of view.

Education has been considered in its relation to muscular development—manual training, the professional training of the teacher, sex in education, and a comparison between foreign methods and those of American schools.

Art has investigated parks and landscape gardening, monuments and public buildings, village improvements and the development of beauty in environment, home gardens and lawns, economy of space, the use of right material in the making of walls, fences, hedges, walks, and garden furnishings.

The presidents of the Woman's Club have been Mrs. Patty B. Semple, 1890-91; Mrs. J. W. Bowser, 1891-93; Mrs. C. P. Barnes, 1893-96; Mrs. A. P. Humphry, 1896-98.

In 1897 the Woman's Club held one of the finest loan exhibitions ever seen in the South. Hundreds of rare and valuable articles were collected and classified in a display that attracted thousands of visitors. It was a year in many ways of exceptional activity; every month offered some special attraction, such as lectures, entertainments, receptions, or exhibitions. While many of the municipal efforts have borne no apparent fruit at the time, subsequent events have proved that they were entering wedges, which in time wrought their own accomplishment.

To-day the club stands as a symbol for all that is upright, and holds a dignified position in the community that nothing can assail. Any proposed action brings immediately the hearty endorsement and coöperation of Louisville's best citizens. The club colors are white and gold. It has no insignia or motto. The entrance fee is five dollars, the annual dues also five dollars. The list of women now enrolled is one hundred and forty. Admission to membership is controlled by the Board of Managers, and is limited to names which have passed a committee of three, to which all applications are referred by the president.

Monday Afternoon Club, of Louisville, is an organization of young women inspired by the Woman's Club to association for the encouragement of intelligent work among girls who had left school, but were without special object.

The membership was limited to thirty, and the standing committees consisted of two composed of three members each—current literature and current events.

Under the head of current events some excellent work has been done in the study of civil government: "Relation of Federal to State Government,"



MRS. VIRGINIA N. ALEXANDER,
Founder Transylvania Club,
Lexington, Ky.



MRS. ISABELLA M. COLEMAN,
President Transylvania Club,
Lexington, Ky.

"Relation of State to Municipal Government," "Our Constitution," "A Corporation—What is it?" "Laws of the State Affecting Women as Wives, Mothers, and Owners of Property," "Present Local Government—How Constituted?" "General Conduct of Elections," "What Share have Women in the Government of This and Other States?"

Shakespearean studies and analysis have come under the head of literature, and the art of Greece and Rome as an introduction to sculpture and anthropology.

Current events has also dealt with the question of philanthropy in poor-houses, poor-farms, cottage and college settlements.

The work for 1896-97 has been practically scientific. It has dealt largely with bodily structure and divisions; the laws under which they work, its

income and expenditure, nervous factors, and muscular development. Science has taken the place of literature in the year's curriculum, and the result has been most interesting and satisfactory.

The president, 1895-96, was Mrs. Delazier Moxley; vice-president, Miss Ida Powell; secretary and treasurer, Miss F. C. Rawson.

The president for 1896-97 was Mrs. F. W. Samuel; vice-president, Mrs. W. P. Semple; secretary and treasurer, Miss Preston Pope Bruce.

The Transylvania Club, of Lexington, was organized through the efforts of Mrs. Virginia Norton Alexander, in 1891, and in 1896 was admitted to the General Federation. Its meetings, from October to June, are held on alternate Wednesday mornings. The membership is limited to sixteen.

During the seven years of its existence the course of study has embraced the entire set of Lord's "Beacon Lights of History," Fiske's "American Revolution," the "History of Italy," and the "History of France."

The meetings are opened with the roll-call, to which each member responds with a current event. The president, Mrs. I. M. Coleman, presides, but for each meeting a leader is appointed to conduct the discussion. The leader knows her turn from the printed programme, and is expected to study the subject in advance, and to distribute topics bearing upon it at the preceding meeting. The occasional papers are also provided for by the programme, which is issued in June.

Woman's Club of Middleborough.—In October, 1892, on invitation of Mrs. Alice Gale Woodbury, thirty-five of the representative women of Middleborough met in Library Hall for the purpose of forming a club for literary and social culture. An organization was effected with Mrs. Woodbury as president; Mrs. H. N. Nichol, vice-president; Mrs. J. M. Brooks, secretary, and Mrs. J. H. Chapman, treasurer. The name of Wassoto, signifying, in the Indian vernacular, beautiful mountains, was chosen as significant of the striking and charming scenery amid which Middleborough is situated.

A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the club started rightly on an apparently prosperous career.

At that time the town gave promise of being an El Dorado, but this promise was not then fulfilled, and many families left the place for other fields of enterprise. These changes took away many of the most active workers, and for



MRS. ALICE G. WOODBURY,
Founder and First President Middleborough Woman's Club, Ky.

a time meetings were suspended. No united effort was made to reorganize until January, 1897, when Mrs. Woodbury, whose interest had never abated, sent out another call, and brought about a reorganization under the old name. This was, however, changed later and by majority vote to the Middleborough Woman's Club.

The work now embraces departments in art, history and literature, home, miscellany, and current events, supplemented by a general study of parliamentary law. A high degree of interest is evinced, and much good results from coöperation in a social, literary, and scientific way.



CLUB-ROOM—MIDDLEBOROUGH WOMAN'S CLUB

Under the guidance of Mrs. Woodbury, the club received inspiration to good work. A fine parliamentarian herself, she instilled into the members of her club an earnest desire to master all parliamentary usages, and whatever of perfection the club may attain hereafter is directly attributable to this systematic organizer, who proved herself at all times a just, unobtrusive, and energetic leader.

On January 1, 1898, the club sustained a serious loss in the death of its president, Mrs. Woodbury, and on January 26, 1898, the following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Frank P. Kenyon; vice-president, Mrs. D. P. Whitsett; secretary, Mrs. Charles H. Price; treasurer, Mrs. Harry Paine.

Mrs. Woodbury was a native of Vermont. She was an honorary member of Ossoli Circle, of Knoxville, Tenn., and a writer of ability. She was a contributor to various magazines, and was editor of the home department of the

Gentleman Farmer. Besides her other literary works, she had also written several dramas. She stood high in the world of letters, and was beloved by all who knew her, for her many excellent qualities.

Woman's Club of Central Kentucky.—The organization of the Woman's Club of Central Kentucky began to be discussed just after the organization of the Kentucky State Federation, which was consummated in July, 1894—the clubs of the State having been called to Lexington by invitation of the four Lexington clubs, namely, the Lexington Sorosis, in which the movement originated; the Fortnightly; the Transylvania, then called Beacon Lights, and the Woman's Musical Club. Mrs. Mary Gratz Morton, the newly elected State president, invited representatives of these city clubs to a luncheon, at which the merits of a city federation or the formation of an entirely new club were discussed. Miss Eva Stevenson, of the Musical Club, stood from the beginning for a new club. Mrs. Morton followed her luncheon by a general invitation, through the city papers, to all ladies interested in the formation of a new club, to a parlor meeting at her home. This was followed by several meetings in Mrs. Morton's parlors, Mrs. Morton being elected president and Miss Stevenson secretary of the temporary organization.

It was upon motion of Mrs. Harriet Martin Shaw that the permanent organization was begun. To her also is due the credit of the name.

Mrs. Lila Redman Smith added to the enthusiasm of the movement with her plans of a woman's building.

A constitution was drafted and thoroughly discussed. It was formally adopted, and officers elected December 3, 1894. So strongly had interest been awakened in the new club that instead of the two hundred which the Committee on Constitution thought a sufficient margin for those who would care for membership, two hundred and fifty women stood awaiting admittance.

The club is unique in that it embraces a larger territory—the historic "Blue Grass" region—in its membership than any similar organization. One of the nine general meetings of the club is known as "county members' day." This meeting is looked forward to as one of the most attractive of the whole year.

The personnel of the Woman's Club is also interesting. The society woman, leaders of reforms, founders of charities, church workers, presidents of local and State missionary societies, reporters on newspapers, conservative home-keepers, teachers, old family scions, the newcomer—all unite in giving it their best.

The club stands non-committal in any particular line of aggressive work, but opens its portals wide to the discussion of all subjects that have for their object the betterment of the community, always excepting politics or religion. It especially seeks to "promote social, educational, literary, and artistic

growth"—to foster that atmosphere of tolerance, discrimination, and appreciation in which all good things grow to just proportions. N. D. S.

The Woman's Club of Shelby County was organized in March, 1896, and federated both in the State and national organizations in the same year. Organized in April, it had by the end of the year sixty-five names on its roll-call.

The first president was Mrs. Clara M. Poynter, but the duties in consequence of a sudden bereavement fell upon the vice-president, Mrs. J. K. Potter.

The literary work has, so far, been of a miscellaneous character, but largely devoted to Kentucky subjects—its political history, its resources, its literati, its women and their interests. One of the papers was on "The Points of Law Women Should Understand"; another, "The Science of Statistics"; and in the department of literature, studies of three recent Scotch writers—J. M. Barrie, Ian Maclaren, and Crockett. The papers, as well as the discussions, are original, and have shown a high degree of intelligence and cultivation.

The club is yet in its infancy, and is working with wise caution towards expansion. The clover with red blossom is the club flower, and pink and green the club colors. It meets on alternate Saturdays, and is projecting a library. The special study this year has been French history. It is a member of both State and General Federations, and the president (1897) is Mrs. K. J. Potter.

Louisiana

Woman's Club of New Orleans.—The conditions of Louisiana were, perhaps, less favorable to the growth of club life among women than those of almost any other State in the Union.

The character of the population, consisting partly of cultivated women who had represented wealth and an exclusive society, and partly of "poor white" women little above the negro in the social scale, found an additional factor in an unrecognized half-caste creole element, often refined and educated, but with no common ground of equality in the social relations of women.

It was all the more remarkable that under these conditions, as far back as September 2, 1884, in response to a request in the *Times-Democrat*, made by Miss Elizabeth Bisland, locally known as a young society woman, just entering upon a literary career, twelve women met in the parlor of the Young Men's Christian Association and organized a "woman's club." When the women of New Orleans established this club, they broke new ground and faced the arduous task of uprooting the deep and strong prejudices of the community in which they lived.

Its first note, however, struck no uncertain sound. The first article of its constitution stated: "That it was called into existence for purposes of mental and moral advancement. Evolved from a progressive civilization, its movements must be elastic, and its work versatile and comprehensive."

Miss Bisland was the first president, and the club received a strong impulse from her magnetic personality, and had been shaped into goodly proportions before her resignation on account of removal to New York.

Mrs. M. J. C. Swayzie was her successor, and under her auspices the club celebrated its first anniversary and became domiciled in an assembly room of its own. As yet, although it had a constitution, it had no name, and the constitution defined it as a club for "working women." In a revision of the constitution "working" was expunged, and the door opened to all women who were in sympathy with the club idea. This at once greatly enlarged the membership, and made it more truly representative.

After much discussion—for "club" was still a fearful sound to many—the name was decided upon, and the Woman's Club became a fact in New

Orleans, and its lettering, first materialized upon modest cardboard, became subsequently a silver door-plate. Under Mrs. Swayzie's wise and vigorous administration the club prospered exceedingly. A charter was procured, and it attained the dignity of a corporate body. During its second year it took up some practical work. A bureau of employment and a class in phonography were formed. To meet the expenses of the latter, musical and literary entertainments were devised, with a small admission fee.

Before Mrs. Swayzie's term of office expired, the club leased a three-story brick residence. The first floor was used for club purposes, and the two upper floors were rented to members. The club owned its furniture, including piano, dining-room outfit, and library.

Mrs. Swayzie imparted a vitality which proved a lasting benefit.

The next president, Mrs. G. Clark, was strongly imbued with philanthropic ideas, and under her administration were launched numerous enterprises, notably, language, elocution, phonography and typewriting classes; a bureau of employment, a relief fund, burial guild, coöperative sewing department, a monthly journal—the *Monogram*—and a philomathean society.

These undertakings were all experimental; and were sustained by an enthusiasm which merited a successful issue. That they were eventually abandoned did not affect the integrity of the club. Its primal idea, intel-



MISS ELIZABETH BISLAND *

* The picture of Miss Elizabeth Bisland, the founder of the Woman's Club of New Orleans, represents her on a steamer, beginning her voyage round the world. For this we are indebted to the *Cosmopolitan*.

lectual culture and moral development, embodied in a habitat which was an assembling point for clever women from all ranks in life, and an abiding place for the spirit of hospitality, remained. It was not a society with a specialty, and in this way was free to abandon after testing all these schemes.

Mrs. Virginia Blocker Thomas was the fourth president; she was elected in 1890, and reelected for two successive terms.

Mrs. Thomas had served the club in the capacities of chairman of executive and first vice-president, and had a good grasp of its aims. Her policy was practical, protective, literary, and social. Intellectual activity was stimulated by informal talks, and lectures by experts, and a new interest developed in current events, and the literature of new books, papers, and magazines.

The duty of club hospitality was recognized, and aspirants in the world of art were piloted by club influence to deserved recognition.

Mrs. Thomas was followed in the presidential chair by Miss Catherine Nobles, well known as a journalist. She is one of the charter members of the club, and always one of its most prominent and valued. She had been its secretary for years, and its representative at the convention called in New York by Sorosis, which resulted in the formation of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and held a position on its Advisory Board until 1894. She was thoroughly conversant with the membership and work, and under her leadership the club made great strides in its literary and sociological departments. New arrangements of the committees were made, new lines of study followed, and a general impetus given by the energy and zeal of the president. The musical and literary entertainments, social evenings and receptions during this administration were of a high order and were attended by some of the most intellectual people of the city.

The committee on sociology, of which Mrs. Helen L. Behrens was chairman, did particularly fine work. A quotation from her report at the annual meeting will show the trend of ideas during this period of the club's life. She said: "The vital and influential work of our club must always be along sociological lines. The term embraces pursuits of study and pastime, our labors and relaxations; all the interest, energy and effort that is to enlarge our ideas, broaden our views, and enable us to sustain a responsible, helpful part in that struggle for the well-being of the collective man that is transforming society to-day. In the aggregate we are breaking down and removing barriers of local prejudice; we are assisting intellectual growth and spiritual ambition in the community of which we are a dignified and effective body, for the immense economy of moral force made possible by a permanent organization such as ours is well understood by the thoughtful."

An invitation, which was most heartily accepted, came from the Knights of Labor to the president and to Mrs. Behrens to speak to the women in an

organization of the Knights of Labor. One of the most prominent features of this year's work was a lecture course, embracing "Signs of the Times," by Lee Meriwether, of St. Louis; "Municipal Taxation," by Prof. J. W. Dillard, of Tulane University; "Humanity as I Know It," by Mr. W. S. Parkerson; "The Forgotten Man," by Rev. Beverly Warner.

A series of social and literary receptions were given, including one to Miss Annie Osborne Moore, of England, and one to Miss Rosa Frantz, of New Orleans; an evening called "English Mosaics," consisting of readings from English authors by Miss D'Unger, of Chicago, with a musical accompaniment by Miss Grace Kellogg; a matinee of readings to children by Eugene Field; a benefit to this same author given at the French Opera House in conjunction with the "Geographics" and "Quarantes" reception to Mrs. John Drew, at which Mr. and Mrs. Sidney Drew were present and Mr. Joseph Jefferson contributed a short impromptu speech; an afternoon tea to friends of the club, and a reception to Mrs. D. P. Bowers.

In May, 1894, Miss Nobles was reelected to the presidency. This second year of her term was as brilliant as the first, and included much good work by the members who acted as chairmen of the different committees. The year was calendared from October to May, and each Monday of the month, excepting the second, which is always reserved for business, was given in charge of a committee, whose chairman was responsible for a programme. Many delightful evenings resulted from this plan. The Music Committee—Mrs. J. M. Norich, chairman—gave a musicale, at which appeared the best talent of the city, some of which the club was proud to claim as its own. The Library Committee—Mrs. Sumter D. Marks, chairman—gave a musical and literary entertainment, and the Committee on Physical Culture held a round table, when papers were read presenting views on physical culture from different standpoints. Among the contributors were Miss Marion Brown, Miss Clara Baer, and Miss Carlotta Smith. This was one of the most interesting evenings of the year.

The Committee on Sociology—Mrs. Helen L. Behrens, chairman—made a new departure in a series of talks on Sunday afternoons, which she called "Talks for the People." These were given by some of the most eminent men of the city.

Among other evenings worthy of mention were a "Talk on the Mining Districts of California," by a California club-woman, then visiting the city; a "Talk on Clubs," by Mrs. Virginia J. Berryhill, of Des Moines, Iowa; "A Social Evening," by English entertainers; and "The Income Tax," by Mr. Post.

In May, 1894, the club elected as its delegate to the biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, held in Philadelphia, Mrs.

Helen L. Behrens. This lady fulfilled the duties of her position with her usual zeal and faithfulness to any cause which she espouses. Upon her recommendation, Mrs. E. L. Saxon was appointed to the Advisory Board of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

On the first Monday in May, 1895, Mrs. Sumter Davis Marks was elected president. She kept the office for two terms. Mrs. Marks had belonged to the club for many years, and held its interests very dear. During the November of 1895, in response to the joint invitation of the Portia and Woman's Clubs, "The Association for the Advancement of Woman" held a convention in New Orleans of a week's duration. They were welcomed to the city by the Mayor, Mr. John Fitzpatrick, and by the president of the Portia Club, Miss Florence Huberwald, and of the Woman's Club, Mrs. Sumter D. Marks. New Orleans, with her usual hospitality, opened her doors to its distinguished visitors. The faculty and directors of Sophie Newcomb College placed the assembly hall of the college at their disposal for meetings and lectures. The New Orleans and Carrollton Railroad gave a trolley ride over its lines, and Mr. Theodore Wilkinson, Collector of the Port, a trip on the river. Miss Katherine Minor extended an invitation for a day at her plantation home, and they were shown many other attentions by prominent women of the city. Great credit is due to Miss Evelyn Ordway, chairman of the local committee, a member of both clubs, for the capable way in which every arrangement was made for their comfort and entertainment. On the evening of their arrival a brilliant reception was given them by the two clubs in the parlors of the Woman's Club, which were beautifully decorated for the occasion with ferns, palms, and other Southern foliage.

Among the features of this year's work may be mentioned social evenings, for members only, under the direction of the president, and afternoon literary meetings under the auspices of the Literary Committee, Miss Kate Nobles, chairman.

In May, 1896, the club reelected Mrs. Marks. During this year it was decided to abandon the renting of rooms to club members, which had been begun during the administration of Mrs. M. J. C. Swayzie, its second president, and to return the club to more of its original character. In October, 1896, it moved to its present quarters, 902 St. Charles Street.

In order to carry out her plan for this year's work, Mrs. Marks divided the club into four large committees—civic, literary, social and current topics—to hold meetings on the successive Mondays of each month. Some very good work was done under this arrangement. One of the most enjoyable was under the auspices of the Literature Committee and entitled "The Children of Dickens." Miss Brown, chairman of the committee, ably introduced the topic. She was followed by Miss Carrie Brewer, Miss Eveline A. Waldo,

and Mrs. S. D. Marks. The evening closed with an original poem by Mrs. Margaret Hunt Brisbane. The Civic Committee held three entertaining and instructive meetings. At the first Mrs. Helen L. Behrens, chairman, read a paper on representative balloting. The second was of a historical character and was entitled "How Oregon Was Saved to the Union."

In May, 1896, the club elected as its delegate to the biennial convention of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Dr. Mary G. A. Dight. This lady, a well-known physician, gifted with many womanly graces, filled the post assigned her with intelligence and close application to the best interests of the club she represented. Miss Sophie B. Wright, first vice-president, a member of the Advisory Board of the Federation, also attended the convention, and in lieu of the president of the Woman's Club was by right of office one of its vice-presidents.

On May 3, 1897, Miss Sophie B. Wright was elected president of the Woman's Club. This noble woman, so well known in New Orleans for her deeds of charity as well as for her gifts of intellect, has proved herself capable of conducting any enterprise which she undertakes. In planning the work for 1897-98, Miss Wright formed four large committees—on education, general topics, literature, and social entertainments. That on education takes up those topics which are now stirring the educators and mothers of our country—kindergarten and child study. That on general topics deals with the various social and municipal reforms, as well as with philanthropic subjects. The evenings in charge of the Social Committee include not only those when the members meet to enjoy themselves with talk and tea, but lectures, papers, and musicales given by club members and others. The Literary Committee holds its meetings on the Wednesday afternoon following the business meeting. The topic given is "Books of the Day and Their Authors." Miss Wright will also continue the papers read after the business meetings, and has promised the club one at an early date on "What New Orleans Owes Its Working People."

The Woman's Club was among the first to acknowledge the advantages of a General Federation, and has been represented on its Advisory Board by



MISS SOPHIE B. WRIGHT.
President of Woman's Club, New Orleans;
Member Advisory Board General Federation
of Women's Clubs

the following ladies in rotation: Miss Katherine Nobles, Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon, and by Miss Sophie B. Wright, who now holds the position.

The officers of the club are president, two vice-presidents, recording, corresponding, and financial secretaries, and treasurer. These and a board of fifteen directors are elected annually on the first Monday in May, by a majority vote. From these are formed the standing committees of the club. It has also a Federation secretary, who is appointed by the president.

The Woman's Club is unique in its position in the city: bound to no one line of study, pledged to no one branch of philanthropy or charity, and not hedged in by the prejudices of any one clique. It is based upon such broad principles that women of all creeds and classes of society may meet within its membership to discuss and hear discussed those vital questions which affect all mankind. It knows no politics; nor has any religion save the universal brotherhood of man ever been allowed to enter into its workings; but it is in touch with all movements, political, intellectual, or religious, which tend towards the advancement of woman, and make her better fitted to hold her position in the world of new ideas of which she is so important a factor.

The Woman's Club distributed rations and clothing to the sufferers by a great overflow in Louisiana and Texas; and through two of its members, Miss Mary Bisland and Miss Nobles, organized the Women's League, which brought influences to bear that placed matrons in station houses, and furnished a bed in the Women's and Children's Hospital.

Among the literary topics discussed have been "English Literature," "Russian Literature," "Objective Methods," "Higher Education of the Masses," "Domestic Relations of Carlyle and his Wife," "Literary Landmarks of London," "Browning," "George Eliot," "Robert Elsmere," "The Talmud," "The Press: Should it Represent or Endeavor to Shape Public Opinion?" "Realistic and Romantic Schools of Fiction," "Spanish Contemporary Literature," "Ibsen," "Rudyard Kipling," "Home Rule," "Jaunting in Ireland," "How to Study Literature," "Louisiana, from Discovery to Foundation of New Orleans," and "Zulu Land."

Among the brilliant social occasions was the first large banquet, given in a public hall in 1889, under Mrs. Clark's administration, which brought together the entire club membership, and all that is brightest and best in the woman's world of intellect in New Orleans.

A second great banquet was given to the honorary members, Mrs. Mary Ashley Townsend, Mrs. Mollie E. Moore Davis, and Mrs. Martha R. Field, whose literary gifts, widely recognized, have been generously used in behalf of this organization.

The club house was made beautiful for this occasion. Around an immense horseshoe table was gathered a representative group of Creole and

American women, and song and sentiment expressed in their respective languages the gladness of a festal time.

Other receptions have been given to Mrs. Ruth McEnery Stuart, the Southern authoress; to Miss Georgia Cayvan, the actress, and many leading club women.

The officers for 1897-98 are: President, Miss Sophie B. Wright; vice-president, Mrs. S. D. Marks; recording secretary, Miss Lily Richardson; corresponding secretary, Miss Flora Scott; treasurer, Mrs. T. A. Wilson; Federation secretary, Miss Marion Brown.

Hypatia, of Shreveport, is the only federated woman's club outside of New Orleans. Although little more than three years old, it has made such rapid advance that it is now entitled to take front rank among the clubs of the South. The membership is limited to twenty-five, representing the best social and intellectual life of the community, and is not only a centre of influence, but is rapidly becoming an increasing power for good. Members are encouraged to speak extemporaneously, and to debate on important events occurring in the world of to-day. Hypatia also aims to instruct women, by rigid enforcement of parliamentary law, how to conduct business meetings in a business-like manner. It encourages free discussion upon all important questions, and possesses a circulating library free to the members. The dues are small—ten cents monthly; but a fine is imposed for absence or neglect to perform the work assigned.

Mrs. James Foster was the first president; Mrs. Eleanor Comegys, secretary. The president who succeeded her was Mrs. Sarah Quarles Hamilton; and the third president (1897), Mrs. Comegys; corresponding secretary, Mrs. S. Q. Hamilton.

The success of Hypatia has been so great and its influence so marked that several other clubs have been formed on its lines. It is a member of the General Federation, and its colors are those of the pansy: purple, gold, and white.

The present officers are: President, Miss Lavinia H. Egan; vice-president, Mrs. C. J. Foster; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Hoyle Tomkies.

Two clubs formed under the direction of the chairman of State correspondence, Mrs. Hamilton, have been added to Shreveport since the biennial of 1896. **Fidelio** is a club of Jewish women organized in the beginning of 1897 for the study of English literature. It meets fortnightly, and consists of twenty members, with Miss Clara Florsheim as president. These ladies are very much in earnest, and the work is thorough. The study began with Chaucer, and is conscientiously pursued step by step.

The Pierian Club consists of twenty-five young society women, organized also in 1897 for the study of current literature. Miss Leonard is the presi-



MRS. S. Q. HAMILTON,
Chairman State Correspondence of Louisiana for
General Federation Women's Clubs

dent, the meetings taking place semi-weekly at the homes of the members. Both the clubs have social features, which occur several times during the club year. On these occasions the exercises are of a more general character, though still in line with their subject, and music is an important element. Each member is allowed to invite one or more guests, and the event becomes a means of social profit and mental enlargement.

Natchitoches, the seat of the State Normal School, has also a club organized under the State chairman's auspices, and before the biennial occurs in Denver, a State federation will probably be formed of five active clubs—Hypatia, of Shreveport, taking the lead in the organization.

The Arena Club, of New Orleans, was founded in June, 1892, at the home of Mrs.

J. M. Ferguson, whose idea it was, and who was made its president.

It was not started as a strictly woman's club, but to promote the "Per aspera ad astra." coöperation of the sexes on lines of social and intellectual culture, rather than the limited one of the usual matrimonial bureau.

The active membership is, however, confined to women; men can only become "associate" or life members, and do not pay entrance fees or dues. The object, as stated in the constitution, is "to increase good fellowship among women and men; to educate the moral, mental, and physical faculties of its members; to disseminate a knowledge of the laws that should govern life in all its relations; and, whenever occasion demands, to take such private or public action as shall serve the best interests of both sexes."

The meetings are weekly, on Monday evenings, and the general subject of study for 1897 is "Political Economy," with reading from John Stuart Mill and discussion by the whole club. Original essays or papers are not permitted, except upon the second Monday evening of the month, when the speaker or reader is appointed the week previous, the subject announced, and general discussion follows the reading or speaking.

Third Mondays are given to physiological or hygienic questions, with only women present, who participate in a general discussion.

On the second and fourth Mondays, when men members and visitors are

admitted, questions are sometimes substituted for the reading of book or paper, and the discussion becomes very animated.

Among special speakers and subjects have been: "The Parliament of Religions," by Dr. Joseph Holt; "Four Evenings with Shakespeare," led by

"We do not take possession of our ideas, but are possessed by them.

They master us, and force us into the arena, where we must fight for them."

Miss A. L. Pitkin: "A Description of the Passion Play," by Mrs. M. K. Sinclair; "Single Tax"—fiscal point of view—by Prof. J. H. Dillard, of Tulane University; "Single Tax"—ethical point of view—by Hamlin Garland; "Dignity of Labor," by Mrs. M. R. Field;

"Legal Status of Women—the Law and the Lady," by Judge J. H. Ferguson, of New Orleans Criminal Court; "The Drama," by Joseph Jefferson, and complimentary reception to him, and Arena Club, by Mrs. J. M. Ferguson (five hundred guests present); "Why, How, and What to Read," by Rev. Beverly Warner; "Union for Practical Progress," by Rev. H. C. Vrooman, of Boston; readings from her own works, by Will Allen Dromgoole; "Mazzini," by Prof. J. H. Dillard, Tulane University; "The New Woman and the New Man," by Mme. Gertrude de Aguirre; "Our Monetary System," by Mr. James Middleton; "Hegelian Philosophy," by Prof. B. V. B. Dixon, president of Sophie Newcomb (female) College; "The Social Balance," by the Rt. Rev. Davis Sessums, Bishop of Louisiana, and "The Tariff," by Mr. A. B. Booth.

The lectures of the club are given in the lecture hall of Tulane University, and on the occasion when Joseph Jefferson appeared five hundred members and guests were present.

The annual dinner is an important social occasion, to which the press and distinguished men and women are invited. At the closing of Mardi Gras the officers become the guests of the president for all the social part of a fine entertainment. As the presiding officer is a strong advocate of punctuality and the value of time, the gift of a beautiful eight-day clock (Christmas, 1896) was considered appropriate, and stands both as guard and guide.

The club has started a library, the nucleus furnished by contributions from Mrs. Hamlin Garland and the president. To this constant accessions are being made, and it is hoped that in time it will have value as a library for reference as well as for general purposes.

In conjunction with the Arena Union the Arena Club placed on the statute books of Louisiana, in April, 1896, a law known as "Act 115" (of 1896) for the "legal protection of girls up to sixteen years."

The badge is the club's monogram in gold and white enamel; white, club color; and pansy, the flower, "for thought"; purple-stained, "for life," and green-stemmed, "for hope."

The officers up to date are: Mrs. James M. Ferguson, president; Mrs. Charles A. Miltenberger, vice-president; Miss Margaret C. Hanson, secretary; Miss Harriet K. Butler, treasurer.

The Geographic Club, founded by Mrs. E. M. Hudson, 1880, was the first of the literary clubs in New Orleans composed exclusively of women. This band of students did not at once realize that their quiet meetings had any value for the public, and had no name. Later it organized under the title of the Geographics. The club is small, limited to twenty members. The meetings are held every Saturday morning, at half-past eleven o'clock, at the homes of members. Occasionally guests are entertained, but the meetings are usually limited to members. The reading of the essay of the day is followed by an animated discussion, and this by one or two recitations or some good music, after which a lunch is served. Several of the members belong also to the Quarante, as the meetings of the last-named club, although held on the same day, take place at a later hour. The study of the Geographic Club during the years of its life has been, first, the principal Greek authors (in translation), followed by the study of the most important Latin authors, also in translation. Later, at the suggestion of the president, a course of study was mapped out under the title of "The Religions of the World." As the religion of every nation of antiquity included the political condition, and therefore the history, the philosophical systems, the manners and customs—in fact, every detail of public and private life—the subject has not been confined to a mere description of temple worship nor to a definition of creeds. In this wide sense the history, the geography, the daily life, and the religious life of the peoples of Assyria, Chaldea, Egypt, Phœnicia, India, Persia, China, Japan, and, lastly, Judea, have been seriously studied.

Mrs. Mollie Moore Davis, the prominent Southern writer, is the president of this fine organization, among whose members are some of the most brilliant and cultured women of the South—women who are known to the world of literature and art, whether by their own names or by *noms de plume*, as poets, fiction-writers, clever essayists, reviewers, gifted artists, musicians, and linguists.

The Quarante Club was organized in 1885 by Mrs. Thomas Hunton, assisted by Mrs. R. M. Walmsley. It consisted originally of forty members (hence its name), but has since been enlarged. It now numbers sixty active and several honorary members. Mrs. Mary Ashley Townsend, well known through her *nom de plume* of Xarifa, was president of the Quarante Club for several years. Mrs. William Preston Johnston, wife of the president of Tulane University, was (1896) the chief executive officer. The meetings take place every Saturday, from the middle of November to the middle of May, and are held at the homes of members. The subject of study and discussion

is chosen by the club itself at the close of the season, when the annual election of officers takes place. The work is laid out and assigned by the board. There are twenty-four papers written by members, among whom might be mentioned several Southern writers of ability. Distinguished men are often asked to prepare lectures on special subjects pertinent to the course, to be delivered before the club. Among the subjects of study have been "Shakespeare's Historical Plays," "The Victorian Poets," "England," "France," and "Germany," respectively, in the eighteenth century.

The Current Topic Class consists of a number of women, with Mrs. Oscar Nixon for the leader and lecturer. The lectures are given once a week, and after the lecture there is a discussion of the subject by certain members selected for the day. As the name indicates, the subjects chosen for lecture or debate are such as occupy public attention at the time. The following are some of the topics which have been discussed: "Contemporary German Art," "German Music," "The President's Message," "The Unemployed," "The Tariff," "Mr. Gladstone," "The Impressionist School of Art," "The Drama," "The Higher Education of Women," "Kidd's Social Evolution," "Political and Historical Development of Russia during the Past Fifty Years." The club has also enjoyed readings and criticism of notable current literature.

The **Alumnæ** of the Girls' High Schools in New Orleans have formed an association, whose purpose is to maintain a feeling of fellowship among graduates of the high schools, and to do all in their power to further the interests of these institutions.

The Woman's Kindergarten Literary Club, of New Iberia, is composed entirely of women, with Mrs. Emily L. Grant, its founder, as president. At the meetings of this club papers on such subjects as "Child Nature," "Physical Culture," "Hygiene," and also various literary subjects, are read and freely discussed. Mrs. Grant and her associates have done an admirable work in bringing mothers in touch with the purpose underlying Froebel's beautiful system.

Baton Rouge possesses several literary associations. The Woman's Club, whose object is social and literary, was organized in 1892. Mrs. J. N. Ogden was the first president, and was succeeded in 1894 by Mrs. C. J. Reddy. The third president was Mrs. William Garig. At the end of the first year the club found its financial matters in such good condition that it resolved to appropriate a certain portion of its funds each year to various charities, and another sum to schemes for the improvement of the city. Social, literary, and business meetings are held in regular succession, and once in every three months the club entertains its friends at a handsome reception. The literary annex is a late addition and promises to become an important factor in the

intellectual life of Baton Rouge. The club subscribes for the latest and most important American and foreign publications.

Two years ago the Literary Association of Baton Rouge was organized. It was composed of men and women who felt the need of culture and the desire of doing some literary work. From a promising nucleus the association has grown into a large membership, and an earnest has been given of future intellectual development. The first year the programme for the evening consisted of a budget of news and a critique upon some author read by one of the members, followed by an open discussion of the current news of the day, and upon the author as man, critic, and writer. The second year the association took up the study of Shakespeare. The evening's programme is always interspersed with music, which is often of a superior quality. Though distinctly literary, the social relations of the club members are very pleasant, and many delightful evenings have been spent in the simple but pretty rooms, where a charming informality prevails, making this one of the most delightful organizations in the quaint old city of Red Stick.

The Portia Club was the first club of women for political study in Louisiana, possibly the first club of the kind in any of the Gulf States. The work of the Portia Club has been the information and education of its members in regard to the laws of their country affecting women and children. The club has debates on topics of general interest, political or otherwise, and parliamentary drills, to teach women to speak in public and conduct public meetings. It has entertained as lecturers prominent jurists and thinkers. This club was founded by Mrs. C. E. Merrick, assisted by Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon, who were, respectively, the first and second presidents. The third president was Mrs. Evelyn Ordway, and the fourth presiding officer was Miss Florence Huberwald. Some of the cleverest and best informed women of the South are included in its membership.

The city of New Orleans is one of the few cities in America that is distinguished by possessing a statue to a woman. This noble memorial was consecrated to the memory of Mrs. Margaret Haughery, a poor woman who began her work by wheeling about in a small hand-cart the bread she made, and of whom it has been said that she "never owned a silk dress, or wore a pair of kid gloves in her life." That life, and all that she had of time, strength, and money, made in what became a successful baker's shop, was dedicated to the service of orphan children.

The Sophie Newcome College, the first woman's college founded in Louisiana, was the gift of a woman, and remains her monument.

Maine Federation of Women's Clubs



THE PINE: THE EMBLEM OF THE PINE-TREE STATE

MAINE is justly proud to claim the first State federation of women's clubs and of organizing the first federation of city clubs simultaneously with laying of the foundation of the General Federation by Sorosis in 1889.

The report of the delegate from Maine, Mrs. H. P. Stevens, to the Chicago biennial in 1892 records that "Portland had several clubs of dignified standing and fine accomplishment for many years, when the organization of the Woman's Literary Union began in 1889, and this smaller federation was preparing for its first symposium at the very time our honored Sorosis extended its birthday invitation for a general federation of women's clubs, so we could not find ourselves in shape to respond."

Organization was effected about the middle of April, 1889, and the first literary exercises of the Portland Literary Union took the shape of a "Chaucer" afternoon. "Canterbury Tales" figured most conspicuously. The introduction and prologue to these tales were read in olde Englishe, but the tales themselves were given by the members in their own words.

Next came an afternoon devoted to the noted women of France. French poems and ballads, papers on the most noted women, and the singing of the "Marseillaise" rounded out the occasion.

The last afternoon treated of the noted women of England, with appropriate music, and, as a finale, a delightful English tea was given.

At the annual meeting in April, 1891, action was taken for joining the General Federation, and provision was made for a field day down the harbor on one of the islands. This mid-year outing took the permanent form of a "field day," and has become a valued opportunity for entertaining distinguished club-women, not only of the State, but from other States.

In June, 1892, the field-day dinner was given by invitation of Mrs. Eunice N. Frye at her home in Portland, and it was at an informal meeting in

her parlors on the evening of June 4th that State federation in Maine received its earliest impulse.

Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, president of the General Federation, was present, and gave helpful and practical advice.

The necessary steps were taken towards permanent organization, and Mrs. Frye, the president of the Woman's Literary Union, extended an invitation

in its name to hold the first convention in that city. This was accepted, and September 22d and 23d decided as the dates.

Correspondence was established with club-women in different parts of the State, and upon the morning of September 22d eighteen clubs were represented by president or delegate, and a number of interested club-women unauthorized to act for their clubs, but eager to discover



"FIELD DAY," MAINE STATE FEDERATION

what State federation had to give that would be advantageous to club life.

At this time no State federation had been formed, and it was a question whether the benefit would be worth the expenditure of time and energy.

Three sessions were held—one on Thursday afternoon, September 22d, and two on Friday, morning and afternoon.

The organization was effected by the election of Mrs. E. H. Osgood, of Portland, president; Mrs. E. H. Hall, Bangor, vice-president; Mrs. G. C. Frye, Portland, secretary; Mrs. J. B. Coyle, Portland, treasurer, and Mrs. Mary S. Burnham, Portland, auditor.

The report of the Committee on Literary Exercises, through its chairman, Mrs. Frye, was adopted as the programme. It included a paper on "Practical Education," by Mrs. Seabury, of Gardiner; a paper on "Libraries," by Mrs. Fuller, president Woman's Club, Skowhegan; "The All-Around Woman," by Mrs. Coyle; "How to Connect History with Literature," by Miss M. E. Warren, Fryeburg; "What a Club Woman can Do," Olive E. Dana, Augusta; and a paper upon "Emerson," by Miss Morton, of the Woman's Literary Union.

There was also a "Whittier" hour, which was in the nature of a memorial to the then recently deceased poet, one of the features being interesting personal reminiscences by Mrs. Caroline Dana Howe.

There were reports by delegates from the local clubs, and remarks and congratulations from the invited guests.

The evening was occupied by a lecture from Edwin D. Lead, the editor of the *New England Magazine*, upon the "Study of History." An informal reception followed the lecture. Charming music was furnished throughout the sessions by members of the Woman's Literary Union, and the Anne Hathaway Club, a member of the union, served as usher.

It is noteworthy that the first subjects introduced at a State federated convention were "Education" and "Free Libraries," showing what the inspiring motive had already become in many local clubs, and furnishing the keynote upon which the work of almost every other State federation has been based.

The charter membership as given in the first printed list was Ammononconggin Literary Club, Barton Reading Club; Great Expectations, Thomaston; Norumbega, Bangor; Round Table, Saco; Saturday Club, Rockland; Skowhegan Sorosis; Tuesday Club, Oakland; Woman's Literary Union, Portland (representing fifteen clubs); Winthrop Literary Club, Winthrop.

The closing work was the appointment of two committees: one upon a Columbian Exhibit for the Woman's Club Department of the World's Fair in 1893, and one upon a bureau of information, of which Mrs. Frye was made the chairman.

The Committee on Columbian Exhibit was placed in charge of Mrs. F. C. Porter and Mrs. F. Brainard. The federation adjourned to meet in Skowhegan, September, 1893, by invitation of the Woman's Club and Skowhegan Sorosis.

By July of the following year, 1893, the State federation had grown to twenty-nine clubs, calling the Portland Literary Union one, and had added ten new towns to the nine represented by the charter membership. Of the additional clubs Auburn contributed two, Brunswick three, Lewiston two, Farmington one, and several other towns added to those already on the list.

It was on Tuesday, October 10th, that the delegates to the annual meeting of the Maine State Federation took their way by the banks of the Kennebec to the beautiful village of Skowhegan.

On the evening of that day the ladies of the hostess clubs gave a recep-



MRS. EUNICE N. FRYE,
Ex-President Literary Union, Portland;
Mother of the First (Maine)
State Federation

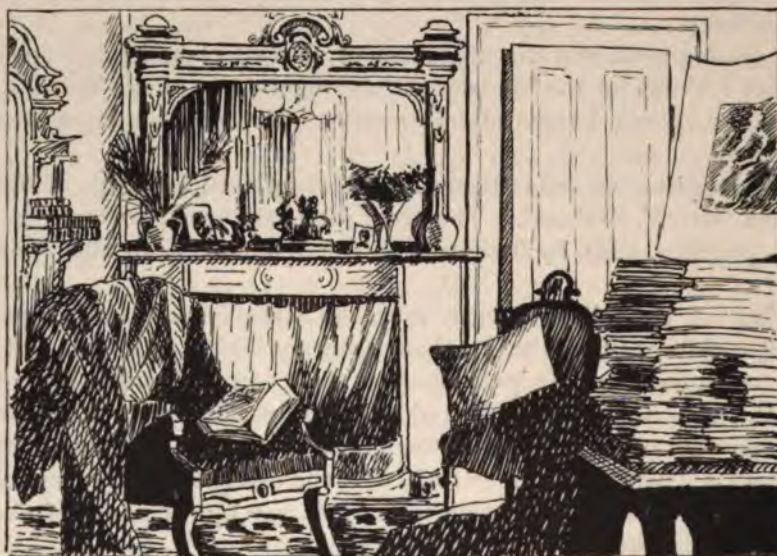
tion to the federation in their artistic quarters in the Library Building of the town. Fine orchestral music was discoursed during the evening, and refreshments served in rooms tastefully decorated with flowers and festooned with the asparagus formosa, while under the chandeliers were cone-laden branches of pine, the emblem of the State and also of the federation. A feature of the decoration was an antique vase made of sweet alyssum, with a base of roses and pinks, the rim at the top being outlined in creamy-white pinks, while bunches of pinks and roses formed the medallions on either side.

At 9 A.M., on Wednesday morning, October 11th, the convention opened at Bethany Church; the call to order by Mrs. E. H. Osgood, whose recognized parliamentary skill and delightful personality, pervaded by a happy sense of humor, made her a most fortunate choice for presiding officer.

Souvenir programmes were distributed with a picture of the Skowhegan Club parlors surrounded by branches of the pine, laden with cones, this being the cone-bearing year. The picture was, in design, pinned to the cover with the federation pin, which is (in miniature) a pine tree. The leaves of the programme were tied with ribbon, the color of the pine.

The addresses of welcome were made by the two presidents of the Skowhegan clubs: Mrs. C. V. Hanson, of the Woman's Club, and Mrs. Gertrude Weston, of Skowhegan Sorosis.

The president of the federation responded in an address which cordially acknowledged the pleasure felt in coming to so strong a club centre, and



PARLOR IN MRS. EUNICE N. FRYE'S HOUSE, WHERE THE STATE FEDERATION WAS FIRST THOUGHT OF

gave a brief review of the federation work and the great interest developed during its first years of life.

The report by the secretary, Mrs. Frye, showed that nineteen Maine towns were represented, and upwards of thirty clubs answered to roll-call.

The report of the Committee on Credentials gave by actual count thirty-four clubs represented at the convention by president, delegate, or both.

The Committee on Columbian Exhibit reported a banner approved by the executive, and a book of the State federation to accompany the banner.

The report from the bureau of information was of such interest that it was voted to continue its work.

Club reports from different sections preceded and followed the recess. In these reports there shone through business statistics and literary work the spirit of true sisterhood.

Many instances were given of real help and moral support coming from husbands and brothers, one husband, in his wife's illness, carrying on her club correspondence in her stead.

The papers following these reports were upon "Helps in Organized Work," by Mrs. A. S. Hunt, followed by discussion upon "Helps and Hindrances."

In the afternoon there was an interesting "science session," with papers upon "A Half Century of Science," by Mrs. L. S. Noyes, of Portland, and "The Development of the Microscope," by Mrs. Leavitt, of Skowhegan.

The evening was given to a symposium upon "Woman as a Factor in the World's Progress."

The guest of the evening was Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, accompanied by her daughter, Mrs. Laura E. Richards.

The first paper was "Woman as a Pioneer," by Mrs. Helen B. C. Beedy, the president of Every Monday Club, of Farmington. Mrs. Beedy is the author of the "Mothers of Maine," a book showing great research and an intense appreciation of those sterling qualities that lay the foundation and build up the character of a State and nation. Her paper was eloquent and valuable. "Woman in Art" and "Woman in Philanthropy" alternated with readings from the poets.



BANNER OF MAINE STATE FEDERATION

The closing feature was an inspiring talk upon "Woman's Work" by Mrs. Howe, and the singing of her "Battle Hymn of the Republic."

Thursday morning a question box was opened, and a lively discussion followed the reading of its contents. It introduced a wide variety of club topics, and ended in a unanimous vote to reelect the old Board of Officers in its entirety. Mrs. C. V. Hanson, the president of the Skowhegan Woman's Club, presided during the morning.

Remarks by guests, including Dr. A. M. Beecher, of Newton; Mrs. Pillsbury, of Belfast, and Mrs. Howe, occupied the last hour.



SATURDAY AND SHAKESPEARE CLUB-ROOMS, BRUNSWICK, MAINE

Resolutions of thanks to everybody were presented by the secretary and adopted by a rising vote, a "Good-by" song, written for the occasion by Caroline Dana Howe, was sung, and the meeting of the Maine Federation was declared adjourned amid a shower of congratulations.

A meeting of the Board of Directors, which included all the officers, was made the occasion of a trip to Brunswick by invitation of the Shakespeare Club of that city, through its president, Mrs. Robinson.

The board swelled to a gathering of forty club-women from different towns, who were highly gratified at the prospect of celebrating St. Valentine's day in so charming a manner.

The luncheon was considered ideal, served by eight Rosalinds of the Shakespeare Club. The speeches were informal, but inspiring. Mrs. J. F. Towle, president of the Sterling Club, of Fryeburg, told how the club had transformed the drudging farmer's wife.

Her club is called the "Three Miles Long Club," and there are two members who are eighty-four years old. The butter made by club-women is said to be the best made in the county.

Mrs. Briggs spoke of the hospitals supported by women's clubs, of the manual schools which were sure to come, and of the streets which would be kept cleaner. The new High School of Portland was described, built by the munificence of three club-women.

A debt of one hundred dollars upon a small church was mentioned as a thorn in the side of that little church. It took just ten minutes to collect the money and pay it. That is the way club-women in Maine, not rich club-women either, do things.

The one piece of real business that was recorded at this board meeting was the unanimous vote to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs. The invitation of Auburn was also accepted for the annual State convention of 1894, which was announced to be held in October.

The closing festivity of the day was a tea given to the visiting club-women by the boys at Bowdoin College, served in royal fashion. The day, if not business-like, was memorable.

The annual meeting for 1894 of the Maine State Federation was held in the Twin Cities of Lewiston and Auburn on October 10th, 11th, and 12th. The Local Committee consisted of Mrs. Seth M. Carter, Mrs. W. H. White, and Mrs. H. L. Pratt, coöperating with a committee of arrangements and entertainment.

Special guests were Mrs. L. C. Streeter, president of the Concord Woman's Club; Mrs. Sarah Fairfield Hamilton, and Mrs. S. T. Robson. Mrs. Alice Frye Briggs, president of the Twin Cities Literary Union, made the address of welcome, to which the State president, Mrs. Osgood, responded.

The first morning was given to the report of the Committee on Credentials, to the official reports, and some reports from federated clubs. These were followed by reports from the lecture bureau, on Education and Necrology. Discussion followed these reports, and the session closed with a paper upon the "Club Woman and Her Surroundings," by Mrs. H. M. Estabrooke, of Orono Woman's Club.

The secretary recorded forty-two clubs federated, and reports from delegates were concise and brief, with a few exceptions. Mrs. Osgood's classes in parliamentary law, including open debate, had accomplished wonders. The papers of this annual meeting were of an extremely interesting character:

"Repose in Art," "Women in Science"; each was sufficient for an evening's entertainment.

The symposium in the evening, "The Kindergarten," "Women on the School Board," and "Manual Training," was worthy of the women who presented the subjects. The interest in the educational progress of schools among the clubs was encouraging. Mrs. Woodman, chairman of the committee, reported an increasing number of advocates for kindergartens in public schools; Mrs. Hamilton enlightened the delegates as to the educational and industrial training carried on for years by the women of Saco. Mrs. Burrington, of Belfast, gave a similar experience, and one result is a home for girls who have few opportunities, and are trained in industrial work and the secondary branches of the schools.

A remarkable poem, "Santa Teresa," by Rita Creighton Smith, of Great Expectations, Thomaston, was read by the State auditor, Mrs. M. S. Burnham.

Mrs. W. Flint, of the Woman's Club, Orono, contributed a paper, "Woman and Science"; and the exercises closed with remarks by guests, the presentation of the Columbian banner to the State, its acceptance by the Governor of Maine, Hon. H. B. Cleaves, and a vocal march by the Cary Quartette. Other musical numbers had been furnished by Mrs. Scholfeld, Mrs. Sleeper, Miss Bartlett, and a double quartette consisting of the Cary and a quartette of male voices.

Friday was given to unfinished business, the question box, open discussion on the report of the Committee on Household Economics, "Suggestions to Club Women," by Mrs. C. D. Rich, of Lewiston; a report of the biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at Philadelphia, and a symposium on suggestions invited by Mrs. Henrotin upon State and city federations and formation of new clubs.

The afternoon closed with the election of officers, a report of the Committee on Resolutions, and a "Goodby" song, written by Olive E. Dana, of Current Events, Augusta.

The election resulted in the choice of the following officers: Mrs. H. F. Dowst, Bangor, president; Mrs. A. S. Hunt, Augusta, vice-president; Miss B. L. Soulé, Bath, treasurer; Mrs. H. M. Estabrooke, Orono, secretary; Mrs. H. B. C. Beedy, Bangor, auditor.

The following resolution was offered, and unanimously adopted:

"Resolved, That the progress made by the Maine State Federation of Women's Clubs, as indicated by the annual meeting, has been most gratifying and encouraging, eminently suggestive of its future possibilities."

An invitation was received and accepted from Augusta to hold a Directors' meeting there in 1895.

Forty-eight clubs were recorded as belonging to the State federation. Seventeen of these clubs were organized previous to 1890; the earliest two in 1877; these were the Shakespeare Club, of Brunswick, and the Monday Club, of Portland. The third and fourth in the order were the Auburn Art Club, founded 1880, and the Woman's Literary Club, of Dexter, 1880.

Mrs. Charles Woodman was reappointed chairman of the Education Committee, with two colleagues, Mrs. O. M. Mason, Bethel, and Mrs. E. A. Osgood, Portland. The area covered by each of these members included five or six counties, and within these areas the work of each one was organized.

Mrs. H. C. Beedy was made chairman of the bureau of information.

At the meeting of the Board of Directors in Augusta, which took place on January 30th, a bureau of reciprocity was organized, with Miss I. A. Blanchard, of Portland, as chairman. At this meeting the invitation from the clubs of Augusta was accepted to hold the annual convention in the State Capitol of the same city on October 9th, 10th, and 11th of the same year.

This fourth annual meeting was the largest and most imposing which had as yet been held by the State federation.

The honored guest was Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The opening ceremony was a reception in the rotunda of the Capitol on Wednesday evening. Over the entrance was suspended the handsome banner of the federation. The president, Mrs. Dowst, accompanied by Mrs. Henrotin and Mrs. F. H. Hall, State chairman of correspondence for New Jersey, and the officers of the Maine Federation, received over five hundred people, among whom were representative men and women from Augusta, Hallowell, and Gardiner, and club-women from all parts of the State. Refreshments were served, and fine music discoursed throughout the evening.

The business sessions opened on Thursday morning at 9 A.M., in the Hall of Representatives, the president, Mrs. Dowst, in the chair.

Devotional exercises were conducted by Mrs. Helen Coffin Beedy. The addresses of welcome by Mrs. Anna Sargent Hunt, president of Current Events Club, and Mrs. Emma Huntington Nason, of the Unity Club, were hearty and appropriate, and the response of Mrs. Dowst was earnest and able.

The report of the secretary showed great progress, eighteen new clubs having been admitted during the year. Reports of other officers and committees followed. Mrs. Henrotin, president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, was then introduced by Mrs. Dowst, and was heartily welcomed, the ladies rising and giving the Chautauqua salute, and she feelingly responded. "I am proud that I was born in Maine," she said. "When I am in my home in Chicago, and try to think of pleasant things in the past, Deering's Woods are before me."

The report of the Educational Committee, Mrs. Charles Woodman, chairman, led with the report of her section of the State, and she also read that of Mrs. Mason. Mrs. Osgood, of Portland, followed.

Mrs. Sarah Fairfield Hamilton, of Saco, vice-president for Maine of the National Household Economical Association, brought a greeting from that body. A discussion on the need of a "State Board of Education" followed, and was carried over to the afternoon session, to be followed by a parliamentary drill by Mrs. Osgood.

Mrs. T. C. Robinson, of Brunswick, gave the report on necrology in the absence of the chairman, Mrs. Hanson. Mrs. George C. Frye, of Portland, followed with an address in memory of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown.

The features of the afternoon were a fine paper on "Morality in Fiction," by Miss Lilian Smith, of Skowhegan; "The Value of the Bible in Literary Study," by Mrs. N. P. Burgess, and two papers on "The Relation of the State Federation to the Club" and "The Relation of the Club to the State Federation," bringing out lively discussion.

The open meeting was held on Thursday evening in the Granite Church, a large audience of men and women being in attendance. Mrs. Henrotin gave an address on "Sociology," Mrs. Florence Howe Hall a paper on "Club Cant," and Mrs. Laura E. Richards a helpful talk on "Children's Clubs." Other exercises of the evening were a paper on "Architecture," by Miss Thompson, of Bangor, and a practical one on "Current Events," by Mrs. S. A. Stevens, of Portland. A poem, entitled "Folded Hands," was given by Caroline Dana Howe. Music, instrumental and vocal, was interspersed throughout the programme.

The meeting was called to order promptly Friday morning, and much business accomplished in the closing session. The reports from federated clubs proved an interesting feature. A discussion on "Women in the Professions" was led by Mrs. C. B. Porter, of Old Town, and participated in by Mrs. A. M. Fulton, M.D., of Ellsworth, and others followed.

Then came the election of officers, Mrs. W. P. Frye, wife of the United States Senator, presiding. The old board, together with the Educational Committee, was reëlected. The following resolution was reported through the chairman of Committee on Resolutions, Mrs. George C. Frye:

"Resolved, That the State Federation of Women's Clubs in the four years of its organized existence has exceeded the highest expectations in the benefit it has wrought among the women of Maine. It has given a great stimulus to local clubs; it has called together the best women of the State to unite their energies in bringing all women into a higher and broader intellectual life; it has helped on the cause of moral progress by teaching women to forget personal preferences in thinking of nobler ideals and the more general good."

Fifty-seven out of a total of 63 clubs were represented by 114 delegates and 93 visitors. An invitation from the three clubs of Orono for the mid-winter meeting was cordially extended by Mrs. H. M. Estabrooke and accepted by the convention. Mrs. Dowst and Mrs. Alice Frye Briggs were chosen delegates to the Council of the General Federation meeting to be held at Atlanta. Miss Ellen Hamlin Butler, the author of the closing ode, was invited to the platform and introduced to the audience by the president.

Mrs. May Frances Stetson, of Caribou, read an excellent paper on local history, which was discussed briefly. After disposing rapidly of some unfinished business, the convention closed with the singing of the ode.

The work of the Educational Committee during 1895 was the subject of an interesting report made by the chairman, Mrs. Woodman, and distributed among the clubs. It requested that each club should appoint a member to visit some school department or educational institution, and report under the Educational Committee at the following meeting, a record to be kept of the facts thus obtained and forwarded to the chairman, so that a complete tabulated report could be made at the meeting, and the clubs themselves be made better acquainted with educational advantages of their own neighborhood.

The directors' meeting of 1896 was held at Orono.

There was a long discussion, but in the best of spirits, on the advisability of uniting to encourage the appointment of a State board of education. Diversity of opinion led to the subject being recommitted.

A letter was read from Mrs. Henrotin, emphasizing the cardinal principle upon which the federation was founded, "unity in diversity," and suggesting that the federated clubs inaugurate a movement looking forward to the year 1900 as the date of a convention of the Christian powers to discuss the feasibility of agreeing upon an international court of arbitration. Resolutions were drawn up and a copy sent to her with a greeting. A letter from several clubs asked that a vote of sympathy with the Armenians be passed, including an appeal to Congress to use its power in persuading European powers to take such action as shall result in the protection of this afflicted people. This received a ready response. A telegram of greeting was sent to the Massachusetts Federation, assembled at this time in Chelsea. The bureau of reciprocity reported as well organized, and the desired funds were voted. A plea for the protection of song-birds was presented in an able paper by Miss Eleanor Stevens, of Gardiner.

The Orono clubs concluded a series of hospitalities with a gift of a very beautiful gavel to the State federation through the secretary, Mrs. Estabrooke.

The fifth annual meeting was held at Portland by invitation of the Woman's Literary Union. The faithful president, Mrs. Dowst, was absent on account of illness.



OFFICERS OF MAINE STATE FEDERATION

MRS. ALICE FRYE BRIGGS, President

MRS. FRED H. WHITE, Recording Secretary
MRS. B. F. EATON, Treasurer

MISS NELLIE E. MARSTON, Corresponding Secretary
MRS. DOWST, Chairman State Correspondence

The gathering on the morning of October 14th was large and the sessions were well attended; many gentlemen. The presiding officer, in the absence of the president, was Mrs. Anna Sargent Hunt. Among the guests were Mrs. Anna Barrows, editor of the *Household Economics* magazine; Mrs. Wade, chairman of State correspondence for Oregon; and Mrs. Goodrow, of Massachusetts.

The feature of the exercises was an educational symposium, led by Miss Snow, of Bangor, and included two subjects treated practically: "What Can be Done for the Improvement of Grounds of Suburban Schools" and "History Study in the Lower Grades."

Other papers were upon "The Rural School Problem" and "Schoolroom Decorations." Papers preceding the symposium were upon "The Place of Physical Training in Character Building," a charming sketch of the Brownings, and a memorial tribute to Mrs. Hemenway. Original poems were contributed by Mrs. C. W. Rich and Caroline Dana Howe.

The George Eliot Club, of Portland, presented the State with a travelling library of seventy-five volumes, which was gratefully accepted.

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. A. F. Briggs; vice-president, Mrs. F. C. Porter; treasurer, Mrs. B. F. Eaton; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. Haskell; recording secretary, Mrs. F. H. White. Mrs. Haskell's resignation resulted in the choice of Mrs. C. W. Keyes to fill the place.

Thanks and congratulations were extended to the retiring officers and chairman for the fulfilment of arduous duties.

A special resolution of gratitude and sympathy was extended to Mrs. Dowst with the hope of speedy recovery from the long illness which had followed faithful service.

The increase in clubs as recorded at this date, October, 1896, was from nineteen charter members to 114 enrolled, and representing forty-six towns.

At a meeting of the directors in 1897 Miss Snow was made chairman of the Educational Committee, with four members—Mrs. A. G. Pepper, Waterville; Miss B. L. Soule, Bath; Mrs. K. C. Estabrooke, Orono; Miss M. W. Fairfield, Saco.

Large increase was reported in the number of libraries, and greatly increased interest in the forming of them in small towns and country districts.

The finest library possessed by club-women in the State is that of Fryeburg.

The annual meeting of 1897 was held at Bangor October 6th and 7th. The rapid increase of clubs and the presence of a large number of delegates showed how strong the interest in club life and work has grown in Maine and how diversified it has become.

The hostess clubs of the occasion were the Athene, the Nineteenth Century, and the Norumbega.

The delegates were welcomed by Mrs. H. Hamlin, president of Athene, and response and annual address were made by Mrs. Alice Frye Briggs, the president of the federation.

The reports of State officers were followed by the report of the State chairman of correspondence, Mrs. H. Dowst, of Bangor, and the reports of bureaus of information and reciprocity by Mrs. W. H. Nowell, of Lewiston, and Miss Blanchard, of Portland.

A paper on "The Influence of the Beautiful," by Miss M. A. Greely, of Ellsworth, was followed by discussion and reports from local clubs.

The most important feature of the afternoon was the report presented by Miss Mary S. Snow, chairman of the Educational Committee and superintendent of the public schools of Bangor. Miss Snow incorporated in her report the returns received from all the clubs in the State federation in response to a circular letter from the committee calling attention to important public measures affecting the educational interests of the State and the work of travelling libraries. Miss Snow reported vigorous work in many sections of the State, but urged increased action and unity of effort on the part of the clubs.

The report of the Committee on the Revision of the Constitution was given by Mrs. E. H. Osgood, of Portland, and special reports by the clubs of Bangor and Wabanaki, the club of Indian Island, admitted to the State federation on the second day of the session.

There were interesting papers upon music by Mrs. Mary Burnham, of Portland, and Mrs. Hall, of Rochester, N. Y. "Modern Authorship" by Mrs. E. Sprague, of Rockland, was discussed by delegates, and followed by the "question box."

The evening of the second day was given to an address by Mrs. Mary Dame Hall, president of Sorosis, New York, and one by Mrs. May Alden Ward, of Boston, Mass.

Final reports and unfinished business were followed by the election of officers, which was in most cases a reelection of those of the previous year.

The list as it stands for 1898 is as follows: President, Mrs. Alice Frye Briggs, Auburn; vice-president, Mrs. F. C. Porter, Caribou; corresponding secretary, Miss H. E. Marston, Monmouth; recording secretary, Mrs. F. H. White, Lewiston; treasurer, Mrs. B. F. Eaton, Skowhegan. The standing committees are: Educational, chairman, Miss M. S. Snow, Bangor; bureau of reciprocity, Mrs. W. H. Newell, Lewiston.

An historic summary has been printed and distributed among the clubs, which includes a "History of the State Federation," by Mrs. Eunice N.

Frye, and a complete list of federated clubs up to date. This gives a recorded membership of eighty-seven clubs, representing thirty-seven towns. Of these Portland contributes ten; Lewiston, eight; and the Twin Cities, Lewiston and Auburn, seven; Bangor and Rockland have each four; Brunswick, Fairfield, Orono, and Skowhegan, each three; Auburn, Bethel, Ellsworth, Farmington, and Norway, two each; and thirty-two towns and villages, each one.

The oldest club is the Monday Cub, of Portland, organized 1877; the youngest, the Wabanaki, a club of Indian women, organized to collect and preserve the traditions and legends of its tribe.

Fifteen clubs date their organization previous to 1890, four in 1890, and thirteen in 1892. The members vary from seven to six hundred, the last representing the group of clubs in the Portland Literary Union. The largest membership of a single organization is the Saturday Club, of Brunswick, which numbers 260 women, and of which Mrs. Byron Stevens is the president. The individual membership represents an average of three thousand five hundred women.

The library law of Maine, passed in 1895, and which the clubs were active in securing, authorized an expenditure by the State of ten per cent. of any amount raised by a town for library purposes, and for towns of less than fifteen hundred inhabitants a donation of \$100 worth of books may be made. Eleven libraries were established the first year after the law was passed, and the number is steadily increasing.

The following is the letter sent from the State Educational Committee to the local clubs in 1897:

"*Dear Madam:* The Educational Committee of the Maine Federation of Women's Clubs earnestly entreats the consideration by the clubs of the following subjects connected with the public system of education in the State:

"1st. *Hygienic Conditions.*

"(a) Are buildings heated and ventilated with proper consideration of equal and even distribution of heat and steady supply of fresh air?

"(b) Are schoolrooms cleaned often and thoroughly?

"(c) Are basements and outbuildings *absolutely* free from everything indecent or corrupting?

"2d. *Industrial Training.*

"(a) Is public sentiment making a strong demand for industrial training?

"(b) Has the school board of your town made introduction of any department of industrial training?

"(c) Will not your club devote some time to a thorough discussion of this subject in its educational and sociological aspects?

" 3d. *Art Decorations for the Schoolrooms.*

" (a) Is your club in sympathy with the movement towards making the surroundings of the pupils refining and uplifting, opening the eyes of the children to recognize new beauties, and thus adding to their future sources of happiness?

" (b) Has your club, as an organization or as individuals, donated any works of art to the public schools, or taken any steps towards wall-tinting or the beautifying of school grounds?

" 4th. *Kindergartens.*

" (a) Has your club identified itself with the great kindergarten movement?

" 5th. *Travelling Libraries.*

" Will your club carefully consider the subject of travelling libraries and, if possible, coöperate with others in securing the necessary legislation to put the plan in operation? In brief, the travelling library is an extension of the State library in the interests of: 1st—isolated country villages, towns, and plantations; 2d—study clubs and reading circles. In the first case a wisely selected set of books for general reading is made; in the second, books are chosen to meet the needs of those studying art, history, travel, natural history, civics, or any other special study.

" Some States have made appropriations to promote this plan of carrying choice literature where it could not otherwise be obtained. Fifty or more books placed in a strong box, which serves as freight box and library case, can be sent to any town or hamlet in the State when a number of responsible persons who are willing to use, care for, and pay the transportation and such additional charge as may be deemed necessary, unite in applying for the same.

" If this scheme were fairly understood by the various clubs of the State federation we could safely depend on them to use their influence in various ways to secure intelligent and favorable legislation. They could first inform themselves and then use the local papers to inform others and reach, if possible, their legislative officials, bespeaking their interest and influence in favor of the measure.

" The Educational Committee would suggest that the Educational Committee from each club have the responsibility of seeing that some work under one or more of these lines of educational thought be prosecuted and that the Club Committee communicate from time to time with the Federation Committee, advising it of the method used and the results obtained.

" Yours for educational work and fraternal coöperation,

" Mary S. Snow,

" Annie G. Pepper,

" Bertha L. Soulé,

" Kate C. Estabrooke,

" Martha W. Fairfield."

Ammonoconglin Literary Club, of Cumberland Mills, Westbrook, was founded in December, 1892, at a meeting called at the residence of Mrs. Emeline Jackson. Sixteen women responded to the call, and were assisted in laying foundations by Mrs. E. C. Frye and Mrs. E. H. Osgood, of Portland. The avowed object was mutual improvement on literary, art, and scientific lines, with enough of time devoted to topics of current interest to keep in touch with the progressive movements of the day. The membership was quickly raised to twenty-five, and later the limit of fifty was reached.

Mrs. Jackson was the first president, as well as founder, and has been a most inspiring and faithful worker. She remained the president until 1896, when she was succeeded by Mrs. Mary Louise Bailey.

Although the original aim was mainly self-improvement, the club has always worked on the real club ideal of being helpful whenever and wherever needed, and establishing a true spirit of unity and fellowship. Its life has been most happy and harmonious, growing in usefulness both to itself and to others.

Subjects in literature and current events had furnished the topics for study, but in 1896 civics, with literature, were united in the programmes. The English poets and essayists were the literary themes, while civics was discussed under the different divisions of education, philanthropy, and government.



SUMMER CLUB-HOUSE OF SHAKESPEARE CLUB, BRUNSWICK, MAINE

Women's Clubs in Brunswick.—Brunswick is an old college town, conservative and slow to change. The club life of women was, therefore, late in beginning and gradual in its development.

The first literary organization was the **Shakespeare Club**, started in 1876 by ten young women graduates. In the twenty-two years of life the members have become mature women; but it has lost but one original member by death. It cares nothing for rotation in office, and every member has a voice in its executive council.

In addition to its Shakespearean readings and studies, it now adds the reading and reviewing of new books. It owns and occupies, during the summer, a cottage at Vienna, twelve miles from Farrington, amid the most beautiful mountain scenery of Maine.

The Crescent Club was organized October, 1884. It consisted, at the beginning, of twelve members, school graduates, who wished to continue their studies and social intercourse.

The first studies were American history and literature, followed by the study of Shakespeare, mythology, the shires of England, the early nineteenth century English authors, English authors of to-day, and the history of art.

The club has been singularly favored in having enthusiastic and able helpers to direct it in its work. The shires of England in particular, studied topographically in connection with the customs of the people and their literature, under a most efficient leader, proved very interesting and instructive.

The meetings are at the homes of the members. Vacancies are filled by electing new members, thus infusing new life into the club, as well as keeping up its numbers.

It has been the custom of the Crescent Club, together with the Shakespeare Club, to aid the public library by a series of entertainments, which is the only outside work that has been attempted.

The president of the Crescent Club is Miss Mae Stanwood, who is also active in the Shakespeare Club.

The Mustard Seed is a small club that was formed in February, 1883, as a reading circle, with eleven members. Later it organized as a literary club, taking for its first work a course in English history and literature. The Mustard Seed does not enlarge its membership, which consists of twelve women, each one of whom takes a part in every meeting. It considers that the question of large or small membership depends upon the object for which the club is organized.

The Saturday Club of Brunswick.—The foundations of this club were laid in 1894 by a class of ladies who had been studying English literature with Mrs. H. H. MacDonald.

At the beginning of the second winter's work Mrs. MacDonald ventured the suggestion of an organized woman's club on a broader basis, and upon January 12, 1895, thirty-two women met together and organized the Saturday Club, with Mrs. MacDonald as president.

During the first season the club added to its literary programme two fine lectures, and a concert given to a large audience.

In its three years of life the membership has grown to two hundred and sixty, the largest single club in the State.

The meetings are held fortnightly, from November to May inclusive, and the programme prepared by the Executive Committee would do credit to the oldest and most experienced clubs of the country.

The plan of the meetings is that half shall consist of exercises contributed and conducted by members of the club, and the other half of lectures, readings, or concerts by persons outside of the club.

The annual dues of two dollars from each member and the generous support of the public of Brunswick furnish a fund which secures the service of the best talent in the State and country, and has made the treasurer's report show annually a creditable balance.

The Saturday Club has already had the pleasure of listening to Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, Mrs. Laura E. Richards, Mr. John Fiske, Mrs. D. A. Lincoln, the Adamowski Quartette, Mr. George W. Cable, Mr. F. Hopkinson Smith, the members of Bowdoin College faculty, and others.

The Saturday Club puts no limit to its membership. It is its desire to further increase it, so that its aim to quicken and enlarge the intellectual and social interests of the women of Brunswick and its neighborhood may be the more completely accomplished.

It recognizes its obligation to its founder, Mrs. MacDonald, whose term of office was extended to the utmost limit permitted by the constitution.

The lecturers of 1898 have included Margaret Deland, of Boston; Hamilton W. Mabie and Olive Thorne Miller, of New York.

The following was a club programme in January: "The Needs and Possibilities of Brunswick," paper by Miss L. A. Hatch; the discussion included the following divisions:

1. How can our streets and sidewalks be kept clean?



MRS. H. H. MACDONALD,
Founder and First President Saturday
Club, Brunswick, Maine



MRS. BYRON STEVENS,
President Saturday Club, Brunswick,
Maine

2. Will the Saturday Club suggest a plan to prevent rubbish from being dumped by the roadside, on the outskirts of our town?

3. How can our parks be improved?

4. How can our club coöperate with the Village Improvement Society in improving our town?

The closing number was a humorous poem, "Much Ado About Nothing," by Miss Lamb.

Mrs. MacDonald was succeeded as president by Mrs. Byron Stevens, who has been active in many organizations, and is one of the special committee appointed to prepare and print the minutes of the State federation. The first vice-president is Miss Stanwood; the second, Mrs. F. N. Whittier, the corresponding secretary is Miss E. Knowlton.

The Fortnightly Club, of Bath, was the second woman's club organized in the town. Its inspiration was derived from a course of lectures given by Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson in the winter of 1890-91. Following these, an invitation was given to consider the formation of a club for social and intellectual improvement, and thus the Fortnightly came into existence in January, 1891, with upwards of forty charter members.

The first year the club made a tour of Europe, arriving in Holland the following winter. The work has been largely by lectures from outside sources, such as Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, Mr. Francis Bellamy, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, and Mrs. H. H. MacDonald, of Brunswick, who gave a course on "English Authors."

It took a little time to develop debates and debaters, but these have now assumed much importance. The first question proposed for open discussion was, "Resolved, that Howells does not faithfully portray the average American," and excited lively interest.

The first president was Mrs. T. W. Hyde. Her successors have been Mrs. G. E. R. Patten, Miss Maria F. Upton, Miss B. L. Soulé, and Miss M. M. Fiske.

The life of the club has been most pleasant and prosperous. The membership has grown from the first forty to one hundred and twenty women.

Topics of study and discussion are largely upon present-day subjects, and reports are made upon events in politics, science, literature, music, art. No year has been, perhaps, more enjoyed than the past one. The latent powers of members could have been brought out in no better way than by current

events. Formidable as it seemed to enter upon this course without an experienced leader from outside, the club discovered that the way to do a thing is simply to do it, and the result was most happy.

The club gives a yearly entertainment, which takes the form of a banquet, to which guests are invited, and has become the social event of the season. The present presiding officer is Miss M. M. Fiske; corresponding secretary, Miss H. E. Anderson.

The St. Cecilia Club was organized in 1876, and is therefore the oldest of Bath women's clubs. It has twenty-three members—twelve vocalists and eleven pianists. Meetings are held Thursday mornings at the home of their president, Miss Jennie Morse. It has been the custom to give a series of musicales each season, which have proved delightful to the music lovers of the city.

The Shakespeare Club was organized in the winter of 1887 with a membership of twelve ladies and gentlemen, who spent part of every Monday evening in reading one or more acts of a great play and in discussing its obscure passages. The rest of the evening was occupied by reading original essays, poems, and translations from Latin poets, and general conversation on the topics of the day.

After two years the gentlemen found themselves obliged to withdraw from the club. The vacancies were filled by women, since which time it has been exclusively a woman's club. The meetings have been held each year with unabated interest, up to the present time, 1898.

The French Club was organized in May, 1894, with eight members. Since that time the membership has become twenty, and the meetings have been kept up with interest, both summer and winter. The plan is to conduct them wholly in French, with a penalty of five cents for every word in any other language. The club meets once a week, and the evening is devoted to conversation, reading, and recitations in French, and sometimes a bright little play is presented by the members, but exclusively for the members. The first anniversary was celebrated by a brilliant banquet at the home of Mrs. J. O. Patten. A French menu and toasts in "la belle langue" were interesting features of the evening.

There is a Current Events Club, born in the winter of 1897, and the Venice Club, devoted to the study of the history, traditions, and beauties of Venice.

Portland Literary Union.—Maine has two city literary unions. The first formed was the Literary Union of Portland; this was the direct outgrowth of a series of lectures delivered before the ladies of Portland, Maine, by Rev. Dr. Dalton, rector of St. Stephen's, during the winter of 1888-89. Feeling the need of closer association, delegates from ten ladies' literary clubs met on

November 9, 1889, and, assisted and advised by Dr. Dalton, an organization was effected under the name of the "Ladies' Literary Union," of Portland. A constitution was adopted.



MRS. S. E. BRAGDON,
First President Woman's Literary Union,
Portland, Maine

The first officers of the union were: President, Mrs. S. E. Bragdon; vice-president, Mrs. G. W. Moody; secretary, Miss H. A. Leavitt; treasurer, Miss S. A. Dow.

At the first annual meeting the name of the organization was changed to its present title, the "Woman's Literary Union."

The first "field day" was observed at Great Diamond Island, Portland Harbor, June 30, 1890. Since that time the last Saturday in each succeeding June has been observed in a similar manner.

From this small beginning in 1889 the union has grown to be the largest of its kind in the State. At present sixty-nine clubs are enrolled on its books, and it has an individual membership of six hundred and thirty.

Any literary club, or a majority of any such club, is eligible for membership; a two-thirds vote of the delegates present being necessary for an election. Gentlemen are not eligible to membership.

The government of the union is vested in a board of directors, consisting of the officers elected at the annual meeting, and one delegate from each of the clubs constituting the union.

There are six standing committees, viz.: art, education, philanthropy, science and economics, literature, and music.

Literary afternoons are held on the second Saturday of each month, from November to March inclusive.

The exercises are under the direction of the chairmen of committees, and represent one or more of the six departments of the union in their regular order.

The annual dues are one dollar, with no assessments. The only honorary member is Mrs. Croly ("Jennie June").

The presidents, in addition to Mrs. Bragdon, have been Mrs. Eunice N. Frye, Mrs. Mary Burnham, and Mrs. F. B. Clark.

The union colors are yellow and white; its insignia, a ribbon bow in the combined colors.

The oldest club organized was the Ladies' History Club, 1874, Mrs. A.

S. Hunt, president; the second oldest, the Monday Club, 1877, Mrs. R. Johnson, president; third, Gleaners, 1879, president, Mrs. John B. Coyle; Travellers' Club, 1882, president, Mrs. E. C. Frye. Nine other clubs were organized previous to 1890.

The membership in the clubs range from seven to thirty, and represent every conceivable subject, but mainly historical and literary. The largest is the Mutual Improvement Club, organized 1895.

The Literary Union occupies the place of a large department club, the smaller clubs being practically sections of it, though preserving an independent existence of their own and also their own separate organization.

The departmental meetings of the union show the results of fine coöperative work, both in the choice and divisions of subjects. The literature of music, the grace of philanthropy, the progress of education, the developments of science, and the delights of literature, are all embodied in the successive themes which have been brought before the combined audiences on the literary afternoons.

The annual "field day" is unique as a festival. A summer day in June must be spent in Maine to know what the brilliant clearness means when brought together in air and sky and water. Early in the day the women of the clubs meet and take their way in a body to some one of the many delightful resorts on that part of the coast.

There are always guests in addition to the members, and the hospitality is generous as it is beautiful. On one of these occasions the souvenir was a set of leaflets decorated with a picturesque bit of Maine in water-color, tied with union ribbons, and filled with an autograph collection of verses or mottoes, original and selected.

On these occasions the Anne Hathaway Club of young women often serve as ushers or decorators, while other clubs take charge of the musical exercises, the superintendence of the luncheon tables, and the effective arrangement of the flowers and other ornamental accessories. Maine women are very handsome, bright, and energetic, and they are at their best when doing and helping.

There are three great occasions during the year—the anniversary in December, the field day in June, and the gentlemen's night towards the end of the winter season. All these bring the Union together in force.

The George Eliot Club, of Portland, was organized in 1895. The membership is limited to twelve. The meetings are weekly, and the afternoon given to each member in turn, who chooses the subject and arranges it for treatment or discussion by the club. Parliamentary law and current events occupy much of the time. The president is Mrs. S. B. Kelley; secretary, Mrs. H. S. Plummer.



PARLOR OF PUBLIC LIBRARY, SKOWHEGAN, MAINE, WHERE THE CLUBS MEET

The Clubs of Skowhegan.—In the autumn of 1882 a member of the Lynn Woman's Club, Mrs. F. G. Keene, visited Skowhegan.

The club life of women was then hardly known in Maine, but Mrs. B. F. Eaton becoming interested in Mrs. Keene's descriptions of the work, of the broader outlook upon life, and the intellectual companionship, invited some of the progressive and intelligent women of the town to her home to meet Mrs. Keene and discuss the subject.

No action was taken at that time, but later, November 9th, at the call of Mrs. Fellows, a large number of ladies met at her home, and with the assistance of Mrs. I. B. Boise and Mrs. I. G. Pinkham, both of the Lynn Woman's Club, an organization was effected, since known as the **Skowhegan Woman's Club**.

The object of the club was in the beginning purely literary. Its first president, Mrs. P. Fuller, served four years, and later on two years more.

The club met at the homes of the members fortnightly, from November until May. In 1891 it took possession of the parlors of the public library, where it is still housed.

The limit of membership has been raised from sixty to seventy-five. Each member promises to perform the part assigned her, and the entertain-

ment of the club depends largely upon its members, although some well-known speakers have addressed it.

The club members have been enthusiastic workers, and after fifteen years the interest is as great to-day as ever. In 1892 it became a charter member of the State federation, which held its second annual meeting in Skowhegan, October, 1893.

The work has always been miscellaneous. Among the topics considered during the years 1896-97 were the following: "Heredity and Pre-natal Influence," "The Power of Environment," "Original Stories and Poems," "Simplicity in the Home," "The Relative Value of Foods," "The Land of the Nile," "Household Economics," "Germ Life," "Recent Discoveries and Their Practical Application," "Modern Research in the Mental Realm," "The Historical Novel," "Moral Responsibility in Fiction," "From Chaos to Cosmos," "The Mission of the Flowers," "Mother Love in the Animal World."

Through the influence of club papers and lectures a kindergarten school was started, and is now in a flourishing condition. Another paper upon "Civics" caused a Town Improvement Society to be formed.

The club colors are the same as those of the State federation—green and brown. The club has neither motto, sign, nor flower.

The presidents have been Mrs. Pamela Fuller, Mrs. Emily Webb, Mrs. Deborah Fellows, Mrs. Abbie Norris, Mrs. C. V. Hanson, and Miss Caroline Philbrick.

The Panvosac Club was started about 1883 by little girls of ten or twelve years, who have now become women—most of them married—of thirty, more or less. They have always kept up their organization under one president, Grace Coburn (now Mrs. G. C. Smith). The name was derived from the "Sophie May" stories, Panvosac being her name for Skowhegan. The club has always had literary programmes, and maintained its membership of fourteen, the regularity of its life, and its interest, which has grown with its age and the impetus given to literary club work among women. Its meetings have always been fortnightly, and its studies taken from history and literature.

Skowhegan Sorosis.—It was under leaden skies, amid falling snow, that Skowhegan Sorosis began its existence. The call originated with a young lady, Miss Kathleen L. Eaton, now Mrs. J. P. Oak, who invited the young ladies of the town to meet at her home on Saturday, November 6, 1886, to consider the kind of club they would like to form.

Its name was given by its godmother, Mrs. William Fuller, of the Woman's Club. A constitution was adopted, which says: "Its object shall be to consider questions relating to the moral, intellectual, and social improvement of women."

The first board of officers was as follows: President, Miss Kathleen L. Eaton; vice-president, Dr. C. M. Johnson; secretary, Miss Mae A. Steward; treasurer, Miss Lillian P. White.

For six happy years the beloved first president watched over the fortunes of the club, and with the aid of a loyal board of officers made it the success it proved.

Seven of the original names are still enrolled among the workers. Dr. C. M. Johnson has more than once served among the directors, as has also Mrs. Mary Steward Heath. Mrs. Goodwin, known now as Mrs. Edith S. Shepherd, is vice-president for 1897-98, and deserves all honor at the hands of a club she has served so often and well.

Miss White was the treasurer for six years, and Miss Russell, the present secretary, has done for Sorosis some of its best work. But Skowhegan Sorosis must be regarded, on the whole, as a conservative body, since in its varied existence it has only had four presidents: Mrs. Kathleen Eaton Oak, Miss Gertrude Weston, Mrs. C. Murphy, and Mrs. L. C. Frost. A revision of the constitution has now made it impossible for any member to be elected to the same office more than two years in succession. Another modification provides that vacancies shall be filled by vote of the club instead of by the directors, as formerly.

The membership, at first limited to fifty young women, was increased after a time to sixty and later to seventy-five. The increase gave added impetus, but lost something of the subtle sense of fellowship. The annual due, at first one dollar, has grown to two; and the meetings, which were at first at the homes of the members, are since 1896 in rented rooms. In this also the club has both lost and gained.

The first year's work was desultory. Like most young things, the mere sense of life was sufficient cause for exultation and enjoyment. It had to learn how to use its energies. At every meeting a sketch of the life of some favorite author, with a synopsis of his or her best works, was given, or papers on the government, manners, and customs of some foreign nation. Those who were asked, cheerfully undertook to tell in fifteen minutes great facts concerning greater matters that might well have occupied months. There is nothing like the optimism and capability of youth. "Not for worlds," says the historian, "would one of us forget the pleasure and profit that came to us day by day; and if we have come to view great questions more deliberately, we never can be more in earnest than we were then. Our sense of responsibility in our undertakings may be stronger, but our sense of good-will for and interest in the world and each other can never be more intense."

As it began, Skowhegan Sorosis has remained, acquiring and disseminating general rather than particular information, to the regret of some, but

to the satisfaction of those who wished it to be a social and intellectual factor in the growing happiness and fellowship of its members, rather than a means for the mere acquisition of learning. "A little learning is said to be a dangerous thing, but with every year it becomes more certain that it is worth while to learn whatever one can of God's way of working; and year by year one feels more strongly the endlessness of life required for attaining the endlessness of knowledge."

Among the topics which have been considered are: "Egypt and the Egyptians," "George Eliot's Life and Works," "Victor Hugo and His Books," "Barry Cornwall and His Friends," "Ireland and the Irish," "The Land of the Midnight Sun," "Mythology of Ancient Nations," "Concord and Its Great Men," "Five Famous Women of the French Revolution," "John Ruskin as Art Critic and Author," "Educational Institutions," "The Early History of Our Own Town."

The Board of Directors plan the meetings and are responsible for the subjects, but the fulness and interest of the programmes depend largely upon the members. The meetings are held fortnightly from the first Wednesday in November until the last of April. The essayist is privileged to invite guests, and the Woman's Club and Sorosis often share their good things. It has always been the custom that all lectures provided by either club should also benefit the other.

The semi-social events of the year are a midwinter meeting devoted to private theatricals, a lecture by some able man or woman, a "symposium" with discussion and question box, the club anniversary, and annual reception. For the success of these Sorosis puts forth its best efforts with perennial interest and enthusiasm.

"We have our club to thank for broadened lives, facility of expression, warm friendships, and genuine good times without number. So according to its ability has it fulfilled the true mission of a woman's club, which is to make us 'members one of another,' that so we may supply each other's deficiencies and meet each other's needs with true sympathy and helpfulness, learning also how to make the most and best of womanhood."

The Town Improvement Society, of Skowhegan, was organized March, 1896. It has a membership of forty-five women. The first summer's work was keeping the streets in order, putting receptacles at corners and in lanes to catch refuse, and providing a dumping place for it. A chute was also built upon one of the bridges, to carry refuse into the river. A waste-paper basket was established in the post-office, and notice given that waste paper should be put into it instead of being thrown upon the street or sidewalk.

The library grounds were cleared and the grass cut weekly through the summer; previously it had only been cut once or twice a year. Care was also

taken of the bridges that they should be kept swept. The town was overrun with burdocks, and much work has been done toward killing them by the use of kerosene oil. Through the influence of the Town Improvement Society a sewer was repaired (that had been overlooked for years) upon a short street, and the same street was made passable by the selectmen of the town. Posters were cleared from the electric-light poles, as well as from other prominent places; and a place by one of the bridges, which had for years been used for billboards, with all the refuse lying at its foot, was cleared and made to blossom like a rose, plants being set out and vines trained to run down over the banks.

This was all accomplished by committees, and the good work continues in various directions. At the summer meetings, which are held once a month, talks have been given upon the cultivation of flowers, the preservation of trees, and the habits of birds, including the ways adopted to exterminate them. Lectures have also been given upon municipal methods and government and property rights. One of the subjects was: "How shall our boys and girls be taught to respect person, property, and the like?"

Practice in parliamentary methods and discussion of current events have been made a part of the exercises of the later meetings.

The first president was Mrs. S. L. Eaton, who is also treasurer of the State federation.

The present officers are: Mrs. Clara Leavitt, president; Mrs. Elizabeth Merrill, vice-president; Miss Lizzie Hussey, secretary; Miss Ella Hight, treasurer.

The society has joined the State federation.

The History Club of Skowhegan.—The latest addition to the clubs of Skowhegan was a history club, formed in September, 1897, and composed in the beginning of twelve young women, whose object was the study of history and discussion of current events.

It has no officers, and the assignments of subjects are made in alphabetical order among the members.

The meetings are at the homes of members, and the hostess of the day is the presiding officer.

The Woman's Literary Union of Lewiston and Auburn.—In response to a call from Mrs. C. D. W. Rich, of Lewiston, delegates from seven clubs of the Twin Cities met in Lewiston, October 18, 1892, to consider the matter of uniting in a corporate body the women's clubs of the two cities.

The idea was received with approval. An organization was effected, with Mrs. Rich as the president, and a constitution adopted in which the object of the union was stated "to bring into communication the several women's literary clubs for mutual aid and intellectual and social advancement."



WOMAN'S LITERARY UNION, LEWISTON AND AUBURN, MAINE

MRS. C. D. W. RICH, Founder and First President

MRS. W. D. PENNELL, President

MRS. W. K. OAKES, Representative Member

An executive board was formed, consisting of the president, two vice-presidents, secretary, and treasurer, and three directors from each club; the entire board to be elected annually.

Under this leadership quarterly meetings have been held which have greatly increased fellowship between clubs and developed a high degree of talent on both literary and musical lines.

One of the entertainments given by the Literary Union, in which the clubs of the two cities participated, was a reproduction by tableaux, incidental music, and stage arrangement of scenes from the court life of the Elizabethan period. Mrs. Addison Small, the then president of the Literary

Union, occupied the chair. The stage was arranged as a throne with tapestry hangings.

Mrs. Isabel Whitney presented a paper on "The Literature of the Period," and the literary exercises closed with a summary of the reign of Elizabeth, by Mrs. Emma D. Armstrong.

The music formed a characteristic part of the programme. It was all of English composition, and included the English national song, Miss Kathleen Robinson assisting on the violin; a piano solo, composed by the organist of Chapel Royal for Queen Elizabeth, was played by Mrs. Dyer; "Ave Maria," composed in 1550, sung by Mrs. Sleeper; an old English dance, sent from England to a member of the Clavier Club, and played by Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Goss; an English serenade, sung by Mrs. Lufkin, Mrs. Sleeper, and Miss Miller.

The costumes throughout were very elaborate. Mrs. Senator Frye looked every inch a queen. Queen Elizabeth probably never looked so well as when represented by Mrs. Cushman, Mrs. Oakes, and Mrs. Small.

The tea tables were decorated with the "English rose," and presided over by Mrs. Hayes and Mrs. Parker.

Since the year 1892 the union has increased from seven to twenty-one clubs. Three of these are musical, but the majority, while starting as literary clubs, have developed various lines of work.

The union has outgrown its first methods, and now has standing committees on science, art, philanthropy, music, education, and social economics. All these interests are represented in the quarterly meetings; and the programmes are comprehensive and well considered. Much attention has been paid to parliamentary law.

Those interested in kindergarten work have taken measures to introduce it into the public schools. All interests find in the union a place, and it does the work of a large department club in larger cities. Socially it has been the means of bringing women together upon a much broader basis, and it has established relations with the State federation, and entertained it as no single club could have done.

The Twin Cities are well represented in the present officers (1897) of the State federation.

The president is Mrs. Alice Frye Briggs, of Auburn; the recording secretary, Mrs. F. H. White, of Lewiston.

One of its memorable social occasions was a reception given to its founder and first president, Mrs. Rich, for whom the office of honorary president was made.

The president (1897) is Mrs. Lewis D. Pennell, of Lewiston; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. B. Pulsifer, of Auburn.

The Social and Literary Guild, of Lewiston, was organized January 29, 1883, at the home of Miss Ida Fullonton, who was also its first president. *"A consecrated head and heart."*

The guild was the first independent literary club in Lewiston, preceded only by a Chautauqua Circle. It was planned for the double purpose of literary improvement and social entertainment, and attracted to its membership a few gentlemen, who rendered themselves very helpful in various ways. The first four years of its work were devoted to a very thorough course of study in American and English literature. Since then the courses of study have been somewhat miscellaneous, though devoted in the main to historical topics.

In 1894 the woman's club movement had acquired a strength which had been expressed in the formation of a State federation and the local union of the women's clubs of Lewiston and Auburn.

In October of that year a new constitution was adopted, and the organization became distinctively a woman's club, and part of the federated life of both State and local organizations.

During the past three years, under the leadership of Mrs. J. H. Rand, its president, and a graduate of Bates College, the club has increased in numbers, in literary ambition, and attainments. On its roll of honor may be placed the names of Miss Nealey, Miss Angel, Mrs. Goss, Mrs. W. H. Hartshorn, Miss C. Miller, and others.

The decorative color used is garnet; the motto, "A consecrated head and heart."

The Lewiston and Auburn Parliamentary Club was organized on the afternoon of May 9, 1894, with a membership of twenty-four women, limited to pupils of Mrs. Etta H. Osgood, of Portland. The sole work of the club has been the study of parliamentary law and usages, supplemented by readings from Bryce's "Commonwealth." The flower of the club is the nasturtium; the colors are white and gold; the motto, "Order is Heaven's first law."

The club is in a prosperous condition and increasing in numbers.

The Friday Club, of Auburn, was founded in 1890 for the mutual improvement of its members. It meets fortnightly at their homes from October to May. A programme com-



MRS. ADDISON SMALL,
President Friday Club,
Ex-President Literary Union of Lewiston
and Auburn, Maine

mittee is chosen for every meeting, the chairman acting as presiding officer. Its only elected officers are a secretary and treasurer.

The study for the first two years was American authors; the second two, the history of Maine; the past two years, United States history.

The membership is limited to twenty-five, and the present president is Mrs. Addison Small, of Lewiston. The decorative flower is the pink carnation.

The Reading Club, of Auburn, was started as a "Browning" club in February, 1890. At the close of the first year it was decided to enlarge the work by taking in the study of other authors, and making the more general subject of literature the basis of its work. It is limited to twelve members, and meets fortnightly.

Lewiston Sorosis was founded by the ladies of the Pine Street Congregational Parish in June, 1892, with the twofold object of study in literature and art and to promote fellowship among the members.

"As the labor so the reward." The membership is ninety-six, the largest of any club in the Twin Cities.

The work has been, first, German history, followed by two years devoted to American history, and two years to French.



LEWISTON SOROSIS

In 1898 the club will resolve itself into a "Tourist Club" for a trip abroad, visiting the points of interest, the famous places, and the distinguished personages of England, Scotland, and Ireland.

The color used is Nile green; the club flower the pink rose united with the

English ivy; the motto, "As the labor so the reward."

Lewiston Sorosis is thoroughly alive and progressive. There is always excellent attendance at its meetings, and the work is done by the membership. The president is Mrs. H. E. Sands; corresponding secretary, Mrs. N. V. A. Talbot.

In 1892 three ladies, Mrs. Spencer Fuller, Mrs. Abbie Adell, and Miss Augusta Tracy, met weekly to read Draper's "Intellectual Development of Europe." Others begged the privilege of uniting with them. The circle soon widened, and was admitted to the Literary Union February 25, 1895, as the "Lewiston Reading Circle."

Its motto is "No day without achievement"; its color, cardinal red; the flower, daybreak pink; the class historian, Nellie D. Sornton.

Women's Clubs in Orono.—If the intellectual activity is to be measured by the interest in women's clubs, the little town of Orono must stand well to the front, for within its precincts there are six women's clubs.

The pioneer organization was the **Island Reading Club**, formed in 1882. This club has been continuously active and progressive, always hospitable to new ideas, many of which, now popular, were first tested in this State by this club. The work is of a literary and social character, never more successful or interesting than now. The president is Mrs. A. J. Cohen; secretary, Mrs. D. W. H. Crowell.

The Woman's Club was organized in 1887. Its membership is limited to twenty-five, and its ranks are always full. It has been from the first a working club. Its studies in history, art, astronomy, and literature are seriously pursued. The present year is given to civics in connection with a travel trip. Two open meetings are held during the year, to which the public are invited. The usual meetings are at the homes of the members. The president is Mrs. W. Flint; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Estabrooke.

The Whittier Club was formed, as its name implies, for the study of the works of Whittier. That work was well done. Since it was finished the club has broadened its course of study, which now embraces general literature and allied subjects. This club is very active, and its members take much interest in public affairs. An annual public meeting, with literary programme, is held. The president is Mrs. F. A. Gilbert; secretary, Mrs. W. H. Heald. The colors adopted are green, white, and yellow.

The Waverley Club is composed of young unmarried ladies. First course of reading was Scott's novels. The club is now pursuing a course in civics under the direction of a professor from the University of Maine.

The Ursula Club is composed of Catholic ladies. Their course of study embraces literature and history, especially the history of the Church. This club is very social, but gives no public entertainments.

The Phi Gamma is not a club, but simply a Greek letter society. Its meetings are secret, and it has nothing in common with open air methods.

Orono club life possesses no striking or unusual features. The clubs have thus far taken no active part in politics or philanthropy. The Woman's Club is doing some work along educational lines, and is seeking to arouse a wider interest in school affairs.

The A. B. C. Klass, of Deering, was founded in 1892, and is named for its leader, Mrs. A. B. Chamberlain Keene. At first the meetings were informal. The ladies read and studied under Mrs. Keene's guidance, and talked over the subjects of the afternoon. It is now practically a current topics class without a leader. During Mrs. Keene's absence in the winter the members took turns in conducting it, much to their own surprise and advantage. In 1893

the Klass joined the Portland Union, and then it was that they found it necessary to have some form of organization. They drew up a constitution and by-laws and chose for president Mrs. A. B. C. Keene; secretary, Mrs. W. E. Perkins; delegate to Portland Literary Union, Mrs. C. A. Woodbury. In 1894 the Klass joined the Maine Federation. The study is English history and literature, with the first twenty minutes of each meeting devoted to current events. The membership is unlimited and varies from twenty to twenty-eight. Some delightful social functions occur each winter. Meetings are held on Wednesday mornings regularly with Mrs. Mary A. Baxter, and so pleasant has her home been found that the members of the A. B. C. Klass call it "Baxter's Saint's Rest." The annual meeting is held on the first Wednesday of November. The officers for 1897 are: Mrs. Frederic Jones, president; Mrs. Frederick Kimball, vice-president; Mrs. C. A. Cushing, secretary and treasurer; delegate to Portland Union, Mrs. A. S. Newcomb.

The Aurora Literary Club, of Caribou, was organized in September, 1894, and was admitted to the Maine Federation in October of the same year. The first officers were: Mrs. Florence Porter, president; Mrs. May Frances Stetson, vice-president; Mrs. Charles E. Oak, secretary and treasurer. The membership is limited to fifty, and the prospects for the future are very flattering, as the members are beginning to recognize more and more the permanence of their work and the advantages of the club movement. The first meeting was called at the home of Mrs. E. P. Grimes, and the object of mutual improvement on literary lines alone has been adhered to. The present officers are: Mrs. Florence Porter, president; Mrs. H. E. Jones, vice-president; Mrs. G. H. Howe, treasurer; Mrs. W. F. Records, secretary.

The Athene Club, of Bangor, was organized in May, 1894, by the members of several classes that had been for years under the direction of Mrs. E. H. Hall, then of Bangor, now of Rochester, N. Y. The object was to promote the intellectual growth of its members and the literary and educational interests of the community at large. The first officers were: Mrs. Hannibal Hamlin, president; Mrs. L. L. Paine, vice-president; Mrs. J. W. Porter, secretary; Mrs. S. G. Stickney, treasurer; Mrs. H. W. Blood, auditor. The membership is limited to one hundred and fifty, and there is always a long waiting list. The work of the club covers current events, science, economics, literature, art, music, education, hospitality, and social affairs. These last include lectures, concerts, art exhibitions, and the like. The Athene is a very fine club in every way and a factor in the life of Bangor. It joined the Maine Federation at its formation. Terms of office are limited to two years. The present board is: Mrs. H. Hamlin, president; Mrs. N. E. Briggs, Mrs. George Webster, vice-presidents; Mrs. H. McLaughlin, secretary; Miss J. B.

Pickering, assistant secretary; Miss Mary H. Merrill, treasurer; Mrs. T. G. Stickney, auditor.

Barton Reading Club, of Norway, was organized October 26, 1892, and was the first established on a club basis in the town. It was named for Mrs. Barton Smith, a literary lady of Norway, whose poems had obtained local celebrity.

The weekly meetings were held at the homes of the members, from November to June. Its work has been history, travel, and biography, with readings from the authors who were being studied.

The president of the Barton Club is Mrs. Freeland Howe; secretary, Alice G. Brooks.

The Browning Club was organized one year later than the Barton Club. The work is conducted in very much the same manner, but more attention is paid to the poet in whose honor it is named.

The study for 1898 is the "Growth of the English Nation," interspersed with the study of Shakespeare's plays as they occur in the reading.

The president is Mrs. H. C. Libby; the secretary, Mrs. E. F. Bicknell.

The Bar Harbor Woman's Club would perhaps scarcely be called a Maine club, as it was formed in the summer of 1897 by the summer residents of the great resort for purposes of society. The movement originated with Mrs. Henry E. Drayton, of Philadelphia, and a house committee elected, composed of Mrs. Henry Cadwalder Chapman, Mrs. James W. Gerard, Mrs. Gardner Sherman, Mrs. J. Madison Taylor, and Mrs. Herbert Parsons. It resulted from the need felt for some place of meeting in the town. The new clubhouse, which is situated on the shore between the Mount Desert Reading Room and the Newport House, contains a music-room, card-rooms, tea-rooms, and other provisions for social enjoyment. It will afford a chance to pass pleasantly a morning or afternoon on a cool veranda picturesquely situated and in the company of friends. There are semi-weekly receptions on Tuesdays and Saturdays during the season.

The Beecher Club, of Portland, has an interesting history. In the autumn of 1888, through the courtesy of Miss Charlotte J. Thomas, a party of ladies enjoyed the privilege of a series of talks upon "Evolution," by Miss A. M. Beecher, of New York, a niece of the late Rev. Henry Ward Beecher. At the close of the series a resolution was adopted to form a club, and the name "Beecher" was adopted. In the autumn of 1889 the club organized, adopted a constitution, elected officers, and kept the name "Beecher." The first Board of Officers was: Mrs. J. S. Heald, president; Mrs. J. H. Crockett, vice-president; Mrs. J. E. Palmer, secretary and treasurer.

The Beecher Club is in the General Federation only by being one of the clubs which forms the Portland Woman's Literary Union. It belongs to the

Maine State Federation, having united with it upon its organization. Its annual meeting is held the last Thursday in April. Membership is not limited. Although the members of the Beecher Club are not all evolutionists, the study has cured many of superstitions, and broadened their mental outlook.

The Browning Reading Club, of Norway, was formed in 1893, and had no officers until the year following, when Mrs. H. L. Libby was made president, and E. S. Swan, secretary and treasurer. The club joined the Maine Federation in 1894. The purpose of the club is "mutual improvement by organized and systematic action." Membership is limited to fourteen, and standard literature, American history, and current events are the principal lines of study. The annual meeting is held early in October. The officers are Mrs. H. L. Libby, president; Mrs. E. F. Bicknell, secretary and treasurer.

The Current Events Club, of Augusta, was organized in November, 1892, for purposes of general culture, and particularly for the study of current history. It is one of the charter clubs of the Maine Federation, and its membership is limited to fifty.

Meetings are held on alternate Wednesdays at the homes of the members. Current history, in some of its more significant phases, is considered for convenience under the departments of education, science, sociology, art, politics, "*Unity in diversity.*" and literature. One or more comprehensive papers on these or some related topic is given at each meeting, with discussion, and the presentation of current developments in this and in the other departments. This programme is varied by an occasional lecture, musicale, or reception; and the club year usually ends with "gentlemen's night."

During the current year a somewhat wider range of studies is being taken in the form of brief surveys of the nineteenth century in our country. The history of America since the close of the Revolution is being studied, and the advance made in educational and social conditions, the evolution of government, art, literature, and the like, made the subject of consideration for some meeting of the club.

The club has a varied membership, including several women engaged in literary work. It is also believed that it has been especially useful in interesting the members in questions of public interest and vital significance, many of whom were not before identified with club work nor perhaps accustomed to the consideration of such problems.

Current Events, of Belfast, was organized in 1896. It has seven members. Its work is the study of current events, conversation upon the topics of the day, and recent books.

Its president is Mrs. M. A. Winslow; its corresponding secretary, Miss M. E. Mitchell.

The History Club is much older. It was founded in 1877, Mrs. E. A. D. Burrington suggesting the forming of such a club for the study of history.

It does not seem to have had organization, and probably was not called a club in its beginning.

There is a Shakespeare Club, which meets occasionally, but the Current Events Club is the only one of which there is record.

The Century Art Club, of Farmington, was organized in 1893, and the four years have all been spent studying French and Italian art. Its meetings are held on Thursday afternoons, fortnightly. The work is illustrated as much as possible with pictures, while the musical and social features of the programme play no small part in the interest. The meetings are opened with quotations on art, some member always presenting the subject for the afternoon. This is followed by a general exercise with art notes, conducted by one of the ladies of the club, each member being expected at this time to give some item from the art world which has especially interested her. The club has twenty-five members. The president, from the start, has been Mrs. G. C. Purington, and the secretary is Mrs. F. E. McCleary.

The Clavier Club, of Lewiston, has the reputation of being one of the most educational as well as hard-working clubs in the Twin Cities, and is perhaps the only one of its kind in the State.

It was founded in September, 1892, by a few young married women, who felt they were losing the result of much time and money spent upon a "*Neglect not the gift that is in thee.*" musical education, and desired to obtain companionship and encouragement in the practice of musical compositions, the study of approved methods, and a knowledge of musical literature.

The work was at first done under a teacher; but on March 2, 1894, it was decided to reorganize, frame a constitution, elect officers, and lay a somewhat broader foundation by admitting associate members.

This was the small beginning of what is now a musical club of reputation beyond the State.

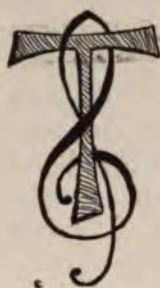
It is now the possessor of an extensive musical library, gives annual musical entertainments that draw large audiences, and furnishes the music for many social occasions.

The studies include Clementi's "Gradus ad Parnassum," Cramer and Bülow, Kullak's "Octaves," Heller, Czerny, Bach, and others; solos and duets from Liszt, Beethoven, Weber, Handel, Haydn, Rubinstein, Chopin, Scharwenka, Sartorio, Schytte, McDowel, and Gottschalk.

Socially the club gains much enjoyment from exchange of courtesies with other musical clubs, its annual outing, and receptions to friends.

It would hardly be doing justice not to record the sentiment of indebtedness which Clavier owes to its accomplished musical director and president, Mrs. H. A. Kelley, who for five years has given so much of her time and attention, and to whom so much of its success is due. The club flower is the day-break pink; its badge, a white satin ribbon, with a bar of music stamped upon it; its motto, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee."

The Clef was organized September 28, 1894, as a strictly musical club, having for its object the study of ancient and modern composers, with selections for practice, both vocal and instrumental, at each meeting. As many of its members are active members of the various literary clubs in the Twin Cities, the Clef work is wholly musical study and musical events. It is considered a very desirable adjunct to the Literary Union, being always in harmony with the allegros and adagios of that body. The flower of the Clef is the peony, signifying the great power for good of music in this world. The membership is limited to thirty. The insignia is a small silver clef, worn as a pin.



The Cosmos Club was organized by ladies belonging to the First Baptist Church of Lewiston, on September 18, 1894. Its membership is sixty, limited to members of the congregation. Its meetings are held fortnightly at their homes. The lines of work covered in their programmes "Diversity of thought, include history, literature, civics, sociology, and philanthropy. unity of action."

It depends wholly upon its membership for its literary work, and is a member of the Literary Union of the Twin Cities as well as the State federation. Ninety-five per cent. of the members are mothers and housekeepers. Its officers are president, two vice-presidents, two secretaries, and a treasurer. Its colors, white and Nile green; its flowers, roses and ferns.

The Clionea Club, of Fairfield, was formed in 1894, and federated in 1897. Its object is, as its name suggests, the study of history. The first year the programme was the history of the United States; for the past two years it has been the history of France. The programme for this winter (1897) is the history of French literature. In the course of the winter the club had an evening devoted to French music through the kindness of Miss Meader, of Waterville; Mr. Kenrick, the principal of the high school, gave a literary evening; and a lecture on Paris was given by Miss Sawtell, of Colby University. The club membership is limited to twelve. The club year is from October to April inclusive.

While the object of the club is study, it is felt that the increased spirit of

friendliness is one of its best results. Miss A. M. Lawrence is the president of the Clionea.

The Cosmopolitan Club, of Gorham, was organized February 4, 1896; the membership limited to twenty.

*"Deliberate slowly,
act promptly."*

The Cosmopolitan was started as a travellers' club, and its first year was given to a trip from Gorham to Alaska and back, stopping at all points of general and special interest. It was a delightful journey; but this year the membership wished to take a more extended view of the events and personages in the history of the United States. Programmes have been arranged of a miscellaneous character, but including the "Cliff Dwellers," the "Mound Builders," the "Indian Persecution," the "Story of the Pilgrims," early American authors, the development of the American magazine, the later scientific movement, and a history of the banking system of the United States.

The club motto is "Deliberate slowly, act promptly." The flower is the white carnation; the club color, yellow.

The officers for 1897-98 are: President, Mrs. Grace A. Billings; vice-president, Mrs. Gertrude Lermond; secretary and treasurer, Miss Ellen White.

The Current Events Club, of Gardiner, began as a history class in 1882 under the leadership of Mrs. Bradley. At the end of the year Mrs. Bradley left the town, and Mrs. Laura E. Richards took charge of the class, holding it weekly at her house for eight years. It was with great regret that the class accepted Mrs. Richards' resignation, and for the following year there were no class or club meetings. But in the autumn of 1892 a number of the old members of the history class came together and organized the Current Events Club, joining the State federation, and extending the work upon modern lines.

There is a Village Improvement Society in Gardiner, from which much is expected, and there has been a Happy Home Club for girls, but this is at present undergoing reorganization.

The Philanthropic Union, of Gardiner, was started by Mrs. Laura E. Richards in the autumn of 1895. Mrs. Richards called together the officers of all the philanthropic, religious, and literary societies, and from these was formed an executive board, which conducts quarterly meetings and arranges programmes. All the societies are represented, and the union of forces has proved most helpful and encouraging.

An annual reception is held in June; all members of all the societies, ten in number, are invited.

The Current Events Club, of Lewiston, is a very recent organization. It was organized May 12, 1896, "to study the vital questions of the day." These are not limited by section or country, but reflect the tides of public

opinion, both foreign and domestic. Free expression of opinion is asked for, and the meetings are varied by music and frequent interchange with other clubs.

The meetings are held at the houses of members weekly, from October to May, and when papers are presented they are limited to fifteen minutes.

The membership limit is twenty, and the club flower is the peony. Mrs. E. H. Osgood and others have been entertained by the club.

The president is Mrs. D. P. Moulton; secretary, Mrs. W. H. Hartshorn.

The Cochnewagan Club, of Monmouth, was organized in December, 1894. The name selected is that of the beautiful little lake west of the village. There is a tradition among Indians that a battle was fought upon this pond, and that "Cochnewagan" means "battle."

The object of this club has been social and literary culture. For the first year the line of study was English and American history. This was chosen at the first meeting, at which Mrs. Ida Brackett was made president and Mrs. Cunningham vice-president.

The programme consists of essays, which are discussed; musical selections, and current events. Quotations are given in answer to roll-call. Roman history has followed the English and American. The papers increase in value, but a still farther advance has been made, as the members gain freedom, by substituting oral work for the written. The club was admitted to the Maine Federation in 1895.

Woman's Literary Club, of Dexter, was formed in 1880 by Mrs. A. B. C. Keene, who subsequently removed to another town. The first work was a study of English and American poets, and later such classics as the "Iliad," "Odyssey," "Æneid," Dante's "Divine Comedy," Milton's "Paradise Lost," and others. At the close of this course, which lasted a number of years, the club decided to travel through the British Isles to the continent, taking in by slow degrees France, Switzerland, Germany, and Scandinavia, with fine results.

The work has always been done by its own members, except four papers sent from the reciprocity bureau. It now includes discussion of current events and an occasional parliamentary drill. A delightful event was a visit from the founder, Mrs. Keene, who made many helpful suggestions.

For the winter of 1897-98 a trip was planned through Spain, Portugal, and Mexico, returning home once a month to spend an afternoon with the famous men of America and the great events of the times. One session in the club year is given to educational topics, and a course of lectures is arranged in which the public of the village participate.

The club is limited to fifty members, and the list is always full. It meets Wednesday afternoons, and if any member fails to perform the work assigned

her she is fined fifty cents. Two of the members, Mrs. Harton and Mrs. Bradbury, have constituted a committee for the arrangement of the programme for the past two years.

The president is Mrs. Ann Merrill, and the club color and flower violet. The work is very quiet, but it exerts a strong influence upon the life of the little community, and has been instrumental in improving both the public library and schools.

Mount David Shakespeare Club was founded in January, 1889, by five ladies, who met at the home of Mrs. R. C. White to organize for mutual improvement. The name was taken from Lewiston's landmark, around the base of which the homes of most of the members are grouped. There was little knowledge of parliamentary procedure exhibited in the early meetings, but there was much zeal, and an organization was effected and a Shakespearean course of study chosen.

It was agreed from the first that the membership should be limited to twelve, that each one should perform the duties assigned her to the best of her ability, and submit unflinchingly to the ruling of a critic. The work has not been exclusively Shakespearean. Since the first three years, it has covered the best translations obtainable of the ancient classics, and very early in its life introduced discussions upon the topics of the times and domestic science. A little later it began the study of parliamentary law, and now diversifies its work with incursions into the field of history, general literature, reviews of books, current events, and sociology. This has broadened the interests as well as the work, and brought the club more in touch with the federated movement.

The first president was Mrs. R. R. Little. The present officers (1897) are : President, Miss C. A. Bradford ; vice-president, Mrs. M. E. Sabine ; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. F. P. Peirce.

Six of the charter members are still active on the roll.

The Dial Club of Fairfield.—The Dial is a study club limited to twelve members. It was organized in 1893, and joined the Maine Federation in 1895. It has given its time to the general study of English history and special subjects taken from English literature. The study for 1897-98 is "England by Counties : Their Geology, Natural Resources, Historic Places, and Literary Landmarks."

Three of the meetings were devoted to Shakespeare and certain of his plays—"King Lear," "King John," and "Henry VIII." Three lectures are given under the auspices of the club during the club year, and an anniversary reception on December 18th, to which guests, including gentlemen, are invited. These semi-public occasions connect the little club with the life of the town, and are anticipated as literary events. The president is Mrs. C. E. Renwick

The Past and Present Club, of Fairfield, was founded November, 1896, and admitted to the State federation two months later. Its study has been contemporaneous history and current events; the textbook, Fiske's "Beginnings of New England."

*"The world wants the best thing,
It wants your best."*

The first year's work closed with studies on the "Formation of the Colonies," preparing the way for "American History," which formed the general subject for 1897, supplemented by a course in parliamentary law.

The club has been fortunate in having a president both able and willing to work for its success, Mrs. M. E. Freeland. The vice-president is Mrs. Isabel Knowlton; secretary, Miss N. B. Nye.

The Every Monday Club, of Farmington, organized in 1890, has made a special study of the poets, particularly those of the Victorian era. Papers or sketches of life, work, and personality of the subject of the day are prepared by the members, and are often illustrated by collected photographs. Reviews of new books and current events form part of the programmes.

The Farmington clubs are noted for their good work in local history and general literature, valuable assistance being obtained from the public library, whose librarian, Mrs. Brooks, is familiar with club work, and always ready to aid by suggestion as to reference and the like. The present year's study is German history, with time devoted at every meeting to current events, and monthly to book reviews. The president is Mrs. J. C. Tarbox; secretary, Mrs. H. B. Coolidge. The membership is thirty-five women.

The Fern Club, of Deering, started as a botany class in February, 1895, with Mrs. Howard Taylor as the leader. Miss S. M. Davis served as secretary, and the class was limited to ten. In July, 1895, Mrs. Taylor was obliged to give up the class, and three faithful members kept it up until the fall of 1896, doing field work and finding in it a great delight. Soon others were gathered in; and as they wished to join the Literary Union of Portland, they organized the Fern Club, with the following officers: Mrs. Joseph M. Strout, president; Miss Eva B. Jones, vice-president; Miss S. M. Davis, secretary; Mrs. F. Jones, delegate. The day of meeting, study, and membership limitation were retained. The object being to know the wild flowers, field work receives attention from March until November, and the winter is devoted to studying and arranging the specimens collected through the summer. Numerous nature books by well-known authors are read, and of late the study of ornithology has been taken up. The club is federated only through the Portland Literary Union.

The Fortnightly Club, of Yarmouth, consists of a group of women associated together for reading and study, but until the autumn of 1897 it was without formal organization. On September 29th it adopted a constitution

and elected Mrs. E. Dudley Freeman president, Miss Alice Crosby vice-president, Mrs. F. W. Bucknam secretary and treasurer.

The course in English history and literature, begun in 1896, is continued, but varied with talks on current events and household economics.

The Fortnightly anticipates growing interest and increased usefulness.

Great Expectations, of Thomaston, is the only woman's club in the village. Its organization was inspired in 1893 by the presence of two women residents at a meeting of the Travellers' Club in Portland, and later at the field day exercises of the Portland Literary Union. Although the club took a Dickens name, it is not confined to any author. Its study has been English history and literature up to the Victorian era. Modern authors, including the events of their time, will follow. The limit of membership is fifteen. To the study of authors is now added current events and book reviews. The president is Mrs. C. W. Stimson; secretary, Mrs. A. Stout.

The George Eliot Club, of Portland, was founded in 1894. The first officers were: President, Miss A. L. Lord; vice-president, Mrs. G. L. Swett; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. C. E. Williams. The club joined the State federation in 1895, but is not in the General Federation. The society was organized for the study of current events and literature, with the works of George Eliot as a specialty. "Romola," "Adam Bede," "Silas Marner," and "Daniel Deronda" have been taken up in succession. Fiske's history has also been read, and a number of excellent papers on various subjects by members have been furnished.

The annual meeting occurs the last Monday in April, with regular meetings every Monday afternoon from October to May inclusive. The membership is twelve. The programme is arranged by each member in succession, who takes charge one afternoon, selecting her own subject.

The Half Hour Club, of Rockland, was formed in 1895. It has a membership of twenty-five, and is a club devoted to literary study. It is not a federated club. The officers since formation have been: Mrs. Edwin Sprague, president; Miss Lizzie Gay, secretary and treasurer.

The Hallowell Current Events Club began in 1893, when a few ladies met to talk over the organization of a club which should form an intellectual centre for the women of Hallowell. They decided to invite the most willing workers, to limit the number to fifteen, and to meet once a week from November to April at the homes of members. The date of actual formation was December 28, 1893, and the first officers were: Miss E. O. French, president; Miss Elizabeth Otis, vice-president; Miss A. Blanchard, secretary; Miss M. Randall, treasurer. In October the club joined the Maine Federation, but has not united with the General Federation. The lines of work have been along those of larger department clubs: current events, education, science,

sociology, literature, music, and art. Interest in the club is vital, and, though small, the Hallowell Club is an active worker. The annual meeting is held the first Monday in April, and the present Board of Officers is: Miss E. O. French, president; Miss A. F. Page, vice-president; Mrs. F. E. Beane, secretary; Mrs. W. F. Marston, treasurer; Mrs. H. K. Baker, Miss Elizabeth Otis, Miss Ellen H. Butler, directors.

The Lotos Club, of Biddeford and Saco, is a social club, organized in October, 1896. It does not belong to any federation. It has a pleasant club-house and a membership of one hundred resident women. There is an admission fee of three dollars, and monthly dues of one dollar. There are no officers, but the business and financial management of the club is vested in a board of managers composed of the promoters, as follows: Mrs. E. M. Tatterson and Mrs. F. K. Hamilton. The second Wednesday evening of each month is the regular reception evening, when gentlemen are invited by members. The third Wednesday is known as visitors' day, when ladies outside the club may be introduced by members. Thursday of each week is the club day, when a general attendance of members is expected. The club-house is open every day and evening up to half-past ten, except Sundays, when it is only open in the afternoon. The business meetings of the club are held on the first and third Mondays. A reception committee is chosen each month, composed of five ladies, whose duty it is to act as hostesses, with an entertainment committee of five other ladies, who provide an entertainment of a musical, social, or literary nature.

Madison Sorosis was born in the autumn of 1894, and has now obtained a healthy life and growth. "The Writers of To-Day" have formed the subject of some good papers and spirited discussions, and in addition there has been occasional work done in current events by responses to roll-call and addresses on specialized topics, which keep the club in touch with the important movements of the day. The social side has been cultivated by receptions, and on February 22d a banquet to upwards of a hundred invited guests. Subsequently an entertainment was given which replenished the treasury, and enabled the club to make contributions to "Goodwill Farm" and the Library Association. During the past autumn the club has established a kindergarten, which has twenty-four pupils. Its membership is twenty-seven, and increasing. Its president, Mrs. Powers, was unanimously reelected for a second term with the Board of Officers; vice-president, Mrs. F. Dinsmore; secretary, Mrs. Lancaster; treasurer, Mrs. Dyer.

The Mt. Desert Historical Club, of Tremont, is a recent organization, formed by educated women for the preservation of the traditions and folklore of Mt. Desert.

The special object is to collect the ancient legends which are rarely found

in print and are fast passing into oblivion. Some of these legends and traditions have furnished the inspiration for poems of Whittier, Longfellow, and Lowell. But the facts, the environment that lies back of the myths, and stories of the past are very little known; and it is the work of the Historical Club to rescue these, restore their picturesque features, and place them in sympathetic relations with their poetic outgrowths, and within the knowledge of a more modern public. The president is Mrs. E. W. Neal; the secretary, Mrs. L. G. Plummer.

The Murray Club, of Lewiston, was organized December 11, 1894, with a membership of about fifty ladies. Its membership is limited to those women who attend the Bates Street Universalist Church, and the club was named for John Murray, the founder of Universalism in America. The motto of the club is "No steps backward"; the color and badge, Indian corn; the flower, the pink rose. The club has been and is most prosperous, its best results being the friendliness engendered among the members of the church. Its literary work has been of a high order, along the line of American and English history, with modern literature, and its greatest merit lies in the fact that it is dear to the hearts of its members.

The Methebesec Club, of Rockland, chose its name for its local interest and Indian origin. The principal elevation of that town and the only one dignified with the name of mountain is mentioned by early writers as Methebesec, and is now known as Dodge's Mountain. Mary, daughter of the old Penobscot chief Neptune, gave the meaning as "Great-sucker-pond-place," implying that the pond at the foot of the mountain was named first. The club was formed September 1, 1895, with Mrs. Ada Blackington as president; Mrs. L. Kennedy, vice-president; Miss L. Lawry, secretary; Miss Emma Litchfield, treasurer. The club joined the Maine Federation February 12, 1896. It has for its object the study of current events. Membership is limited to one hundred, and the number has reached ninety-four, with bright prospects for the future. The annual meeting is held the second Friday in April; and the present officers are: Mrs. F. Shaw, president; Mrs. J. Achorn, vice-president; Mrs. Evelyn Hix, secretary; Miss E. Litchfield, treasurer.

The Mayfield Club, of Lewiston, is a small club, organized for social and literary purposes on February 14, 1896. As yet it has not united with any federation except with the Woman's Literary Union, of Lewiston and Auburn. The officers are: Mrs. Ada May Carter, president; Mrs. Ellen J. May, vice-president; Mrs. Ellen May Wheelock, treasurer; Mrs. Kate May Andrews, secretary; Miss Julia Harris May, club poet. This is a little neighborhood club with four honorary members, but its work unites the membership in a common bond of sympathy and interest that is productive of growth and mental stimulus to all.

The Nineteenth Century Club, of Auburn, is the literary outgrowth of the Church of the Heavenly Rest, and was organized February 3, 1896, by a number of the ladies of the parish. Its object was to obtain a centre for the study of literature and church history, and cultivate a wider social life among the members.

The regular meetings are fortnightly, but one evening in every month is given to general social purposes, when gentlemen are invited and refreshments served.

The officers are president, vice-president, secretary, and treasurer; the membership, fifteen.

The Oakland Tuesday Club was founded January 17, 1888, but until the organization of the Maine Federation, it had no constitution and no officers. The club, however, was among the first to join the federation October, 1892. English and American literature has formed the basis of study in the past, and German is the subject the present season. Membership is limited to twenty-five, and the annual meeting occurs in May. The officers are: President, Miss A. Benjamin; vice-president, Mrs. M. K. Pinkham; secretary, Mrs. A. D. Wing; treasurer, Mrs. M. E. Holmes.

Old Orchard Club was founded in 1895 as a centre for literary work, a study of methods, and social companionship.

The club of twenty-seven members meets every Thursday afternoon from the first of October till the last of April.

The first half hour is given to business and the study of parliamentary law. The remainder is devoted to literature and the discussion of current events. In American literature the first studies were of the colonial period and the Concord writers, followed by the political literature of the Revolutionary period, the humanitarian movement, and the New England school.

A programme of the season's work is arranged by a committee of five. There are two other elective committees, one on current events and one on literature. Both work in unison with the Programme Committee.

Roll-call is replied to by quotations from well-known authors, and original papers are followed by free discussion.

The proceeds of a "talk" on "Mexico as I Saw It," by a member, were used to assist in the organization of a free reading-room and library.

A paper on "Household Economics," given by Mrs. Hamilton, of Saco, was greatly enjoyed; and the club has had the pleasure of assisting in the "field day" entertainment of the Woman's Literary Union, of Portland.

The October Club, of Bucksport, was organized in 1895 as a travel club, and took as its first trip a voyage to England, making a thorough and delightful study of old and new London. While investigating the old world, the current events class gave its time to Maine industries and the record

of its own town. It has also discussed schools and school work, and quickened interest in natural objects by studies of birds, trees, and flowers.

There is a Shakespeare class connected with the club, and this has discussed the early theatres and development of the drama, in addition to some of Shakespeare's plays.

The membership is fifty-nine; the president, Mrs. W. Forsyth; the secretary, Mrs. L. F. Tapley.

The Saturday Club, of Rockland, was organized in March, 1893, with Mrs. L. Mortland, president; Mrs. J. C. White, secretary and treasurer. These ladies are still in office. The club belongs to both State and General Federations, uniting with the former in March, 1893, and the latter in February, 1895. The object has always been intellectual improvement. The membership is limited, and the annual meeting is held the first Monday in October. The work for the current year is in French history and French art, the studies arranged by Mrs. E. M. Hall, of Rochester, N. Y.

The Shakespeare Society, of Rockland, was organized in October, 1889, with ten charter members. The first officers were: Grace T. Cilley, president; Helen L. Snow, vice-president; Ella S. Wood, secretary; Luella Erskine, treasurer. Afterwards the membership was limited to forty. The club is a member of both State and General Federations, joining the State federation at the mid-winter meeting in 1896. Its object is the study of Shakespeare, usually taking three plays each winter, sometimes giving a production of one of the plays, the members taking the parts. Sometimes a Shakespearean reader of note is engaged, as Mr. George Riddle in 1897. The annual meeting is in October, when the election of officers occurs.

Spinet Club.—In the spring of 1894 the mantle of organization fell on two young women, one from Lewiston and one from Auburn. Through their efforts several other young ladies from the two cities met in May and organized a musical club, which became known later as the Spinet Club. At first the membership was limited to thirty, fifteen from Lewiston and fifteen from Auburn, but by early autumn the number had grown to forty, twenty from each city.

The work of the first years was the study of the history of music, from its earliest manifestation to the seventeenth century. This was found so interesting that it was continued, bringing the study down to a later date, and uniting with it a careful analysis of the Italian, German, French, and English schools. To keep in touch with the present time there have been papers, each one devoted to some modern musician or composer, with illustrations from his works.

Meetings are held fortnightly, from the first of October to the last of April. The club color is light blue; flower, jacqueminot rose; and insignia,

a small gold spinet, which is used as a club pin. The name was suggested from Handel's "Spinet." The club has proved beneficial socially by bringing together forty young ladies of the Twin Cities, some of whom are their best musicians, and all of whom are interested in similar pursuits. Receptions are occasionally held, which have given an impetus to the work, and have been among the social events of the season.

Through the influence and practice gained in the club some of the members have acquired confidence to execute musical compositions for larger assemblies.

The first president was Miss C. E. Miller ; the second, Miss E. B. Oakes ; the third, Miss R. Little ; the fourth and present presiding officer, Miss Grace F. Merrill.

Tuesday Club, of Oakland, dates from 1888. It has a membership of twenty-five, and has made a study of American history and literature, mainly through its historians, essayists, and poets, with readings from their works. It has also had papers on American musicians and composers.

This year (1897-98) was given to a tour in Germany, taking the history, the literature, and the customs of the people on the way, with readings from literary celebrities and descriptive papers upon places and personages. The president is Miss Alice Benjamin ; the secretary, Miss A. D. Wing.

The Literary Club, of Winthrop, was founded in January, 1892, with Miss Florence C. Porter as the president and Mrs. S. G. Davis as first vice-president. In January, 1895, it was voted to change the time of election to May of the same year ; and the Board of Officers continued to serve until that month, when Mrs. S. G. Davis was elected president and re-elected in 1895, with Mrs. H. L. W. Jackson as secretary.



MISS F. C. PORTER,
First President Literary Club, Winthrop,
Maine

The work of the club is largely studious, and more or less in connection with the schools. Many of the members are teachers, and while organized for mutual improvement, endeavor to work toward the best results for the community.

The club has raised the money for the purchase of books by best authors for the public library ; and it is found that the club studies in history have a strong bearing upon the books drawn by the young people from the library during the time the special subject is under consideration.

The meetings are held weekly on Monday evenings, from September till the third Monday in May.

The membership ranges from twenty-five to thirty, many of the charter members still remaining on the roll.

Of all the historic studies, perhaps the prehistoric have been the most interesting. The outlook was never more promising than now, the members working enthusiastically under an able and popular president.

The officers at the present time are: Mrs. Dr. Fleming, president; Mrs. S. G. Davis, secretary; and a committee of three to prepare the course of study.

For two years the club has furnished a reading-room in connection with the public library, with periodicals. This year (1897-98) it circulates the magazines and papers among its own members.

The Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, of Saco, was the outcome of a series of household talks by Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz in 1880, and was at first called the "Diaz Union." The organization was subsequently broadened, and reorganized under its present name, and planned for varied and active work.

A Monday Afternoon Club has existed in connection with the union for seventeen years, holding fortnightly meetings for reading and discussions.

The Educational Committee maintained a free kindergarten for five years, without summer vacations, until it was adopted by the city. A kitchen garden, cooking school, and sewing school are permanent parts of the work. The Industrial Committee has classes in physical culture, singing, drawing, dressmaking, and millinery. A manual training department for boys was finally adopted by the city, and made part of the regular school work.

A girl's club, an evening school for boys, and a day nursery for infants are among the other useful features.

Fortnightly meetings are in charge of the Social Committee, and there are many interesting social events in connection with the various departments of work.

The membership of the union is one hundred and thirty. The president is Mrs. Amelia S. Merah; corresponding secretary, Mrs. O. A. Hamilton.

The Woman's Library Club, of Fryeburg, Maine, was organized in August, 1890, with eight members and the following officers: President, Miss Mary F. Bradley; vice-president, Mrs. Mary A. Cassell; secretary, Miss Alice O. Hastings; treasurer, Miss Alice B. Glines.

The chief objects of the club were the foundation of a library and the elevation and improvement of the intellectual life of the town. Courses of study, under standing committees, were arranged along the lines of literature and art, education and science, domestic economy, history and travel,

and miscellaneous topics. Later, in response to the desires of a majority of the members, the course on domestic economy was changed to current events, and still later it was again changed to music and drama. The club holds its regular meetings on the first and fourth Friday afternoons of each month, from October until the latter part of May. The standing committees conduct the literary exercises in turn, and the various programmes have always been very interesting.

The library was opened on January 1, 1891, with a few books that were all the gifts of friends. It now numbers eight hundred volumes, including many books of reference. The library contains many books—the writings of noted literary men—which were presented by their authors. Some of these contain the autographs of the donors.

The club has cosy parlors in a central part of the village, where the library is kept and the meetings are held. The club now numbers, in active membership and patrons of the library, sixty women. The only fee is an annual one of fifty cents, which admits to the use of the library and all the privileges of the club.

The course of study for this year is current events along the various lines already mentioned. The annual meeting is held on the fourth Friday afternoon in May.

The officers (for the ensuing year) elected at the last annual meeting were as follows: President, Mrs. G. B. Barrows; vice-president, Miss Fannie Tibbetts; secretary, Miss Mary E. Warren; treasurer, Miss Mary W. Weston.



MRS. ABBY M. FULTON, M.D.,
Founder and First President of Woman's
Club, Ellsworth, Maine

Woman's Club of Ellsworth.—The first organized woman's club of Ellsworth was founded in the winter of 1890-91 by Mrs. Abby M. Fulton, M.D., a physician, who had been a member of Sorosis when she lived in New York, and took with her the organizing spirit when she removed to Maine.

Its average of membership has been twenty-five; its meetings are held at the homes of its members. Its work has been varied but always interesting, and its life continuously happy and prosperous. Mrs. Fulton remained the president for years, and her resignation was unwillingly accepted when her health obliged her to relinquish the leadership. The president now is Mrs. Alma Whittemore; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. R. Stockbridge.

The Nineteenth Century Club was organized in 1895 for the study of history. The present year is given to American history. The membership is twenty-five; the president, Mrs. G. Cunningham; secretary, Mrs. E. K. Hopkins.

The Ursula Penniman Club, of Machias, Maine, was organized at the Porter Memorial Library Building in 1894. The club met on Tuesday evenings in the reading-room of the library, the study being American authors and current events.

The name chosen was in honor of the first president of the Machias Library when that library consisted of only a few books given to the town by Mr. Rufus Porter. These books were brought from Boston in a packet and wheeled up to the village from the wharf in a hand-barrow. Miss Penniman not only kept up her interest in the library during a long lifetime, but she inspired others, until, in her eightieth year or so, she saw the number of books three



PORTER MEMORIAL LIBRARY, MACHIAS, MAINE

thousand, and Mr. Henry Porter, of Chicago, had given the present beautiful building as a monument to his father's memory. Miss Penniman was always identified with educational movements, and always in advance in any righteous cause. It seemed fitting to name the club in her honor. Historically Miss Penniman was connected with the naval engagement which alone makes Machias noted. The patriot O'Brien was her uncle, and since the descendants of that brave man are few to-day, the Woman's Club holds to the share of just pride felt by Miss Penniman. The ballast of the captured vessel *Margaretta* was used in building the fireplace in the reading-room, about which the club gathered winter evenings for the first two years. The reading-room is now opened to the public every evening, and the club is meeting about with the members until some permanent room or building can be secured.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Waterville, is an outgrowth of the Woman's Association for Philanthropic Work. It is still considered a part

of it, though it has had an independent organization since 1893, and has outgrown the association rooms which it formerly occupied. An active agent in the formation of the club was Miss Florence Plaisted, aided by Mrs. M. B. Dunn and the wives of several of the college professors of the town, who were strongly in favor of establishing a centre for literary study and social culture.

There have been several attempts at reading, college literary, and other societies, but the most of them have been short-lived; and the Woman's Literary Club is the only one that seems to have established itself on a permanent basis, and is increasing in interest. The membership now represents seventy-six of the most cultivated and intelligent women of Waterville. The studies include history, literature, art, education, and current events, with occasional travel trips.

The president is Mrs. C. A. Bessey; the secretary, Mrs. E. K. Bodge.

The Woman's Village Improvement Society, of Randolph, was founded as a necessity of existing conditions. For years the streets had been the dumping-ground of the shops, and refuse of the dwellings. Consultation with some of the most intelligent men as well as women resulted in the organization of a very practical village improvement club. Effort on the part of the women met the heartiest support. The streets were quickly transformed, and are now kept in fine order. Shade-trees were planted, water put into the cemetery, and in many ways the society became a great help to the town.

As the first one organized in the State, it gave the impulse to the organization of others in Gardiner and Hallowell. Clothing clubs have grown out of these societies, which are worked very successfully for the benefit of the poorer people.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Caribou, was founded in September, 1894, at the home of Mrs. E. P. Grimes, through whose interest and suggestion the movement first took shape in the town.

A constitution was adopted, and Mrs. Florence C. Porter elected president. The vice-president was Mrs. Grimes; secretary, Mrs. C. E. Oak; treasurer, Mrs. J. Spaulding.

The first studies were in English history and art; the second year, American history and Brander Matthew's "Introduction to American Literature."

The study began with "Prehistoric Man in America," followed by the "Colonial Period and the Development of the Republic."

Mrs. Porter was succeeded in 1895-96 by Mrs. M. F. Stetson, but re-elected for 1896-97, and again re-elected with the entire Board of Officers for 1897-98.

The study course is a continuation of American history, to include the anti-slavery agitation and the Civil War. Canadian history will then be taken

up: its resources, government, and educational system. A review of two recent novels is included in the programme, a discussion by the whole club on the question of annexation of Cuba to the United States, and a pilgrimage to Quebec, which is planned for June, 1898.

The officers, besides the president, Mrs. Porter, who is also vice-president of the State federation, are Mrs. H. E. Jones, vice-president; Mrs. W. F. Records, secretary, and Mrs. G. H. Howe, treasurer.

Woman's League, of Cherryfield, was organized in February, 1894, for the study of history, literature, and to benefit the town library. The work includes the discussion of current events, and is steadily increasing in interest. The number of members is twenty-eight, average attendance twenty. The president is Mrs. M. A. Wakefield; secretary, Miss E. Mitchell.

The Woman's Club, of Norway Lake, started with seventeen members on December 18, 1895. It was at first called "Norway Lake Ladies' Social Circle," in deference to the fears of some that "Club" was too bold and too pronounced. The name was conceded by the more modern and progressive element, as it hoped to make it a neighborhood enterprise, in which all who desired an opportunity for improvement might unite.

The organization remained the "Circle" until July 29, 1896, when it became the Norway Lake Woman's Club, and joined the State federation.

The active workers from the beginning have been the president, Mrs. Frances R. Partridge, and Ursula Perry.

The lines of study are civics and early local history, but a great deal of the work is for the neighborhood, its school, the poorer people, and children. A petition was sent to the school board to have the schoolhouse repaired. This was done, and the building in which all meetings are held was very much improved. The club provided the lamps and curtains for it, and an honorary member gave a flag. One-half of a memorial library belongs to the place, and this the club hopes to increase to larger and more useful proportions. A sewing school has been added to the other enterprises, and not only makes useful clothing for needy women, but teaches them how to make and mend it for themselves.

The members are now adding botany and ornithology to their class work, and truly live up to their object of promoting "sociability, mutual improvement, and to practise the 'golden rule.'"

Wabanaki Club of Indian Island.—Mrs. H. C. Beedy, the historian of Maine women, states in regard to the "Wabanaki": "In view of the fact that the Tarratines, the remnant of the Abenakis, the once powerful tribes of Maine Indians, have no written language, but transmit only by oral tradition their knowledge from parents to children, and also that much of this information has already been lost, it was thought best by the intelligent women of

the Tarratines to form themselves into a club for the purpose of perpetuating the traditions, legends, and history of the tribe. After two years' consideration the Wabanaki Club was formed and became a member of the State Federation of Women's Clubs on October 7, 1897.

"Wabanak is the Tarratine word for Abenakis. Father Rasle styles them the people of the Aurora Borealis, from Wan-ban-ban."

The officers of the club are: President, Mrs. Martha Nicolas; vice-presidents, Mrs. Lizzie Nicholas, Mrs. Kate Soccabasin; secretary, Mrs. Martha Nicolas; treasurer, Mrs. Louisa Newell.

The constitution states that the object of Wabanaki is "to collect and preserve the history and legends of the aboriginal inhabitants of Maine and to establish an industrial union to which each member shall contribute of her own work, the sale of which shall form a fund to be used as the society directs."

Any woman descended from the Wabanaki may be a member of the club. Mrs. Helen Coffin Beedy is the only honorary member.

Women's Clubs in Maryland

THE club movement is of recent growth in Maryland, and is chiefly confined to Baltimore and its neighborhood. It was preceded, as in other parts of the country, by church and charitable societies, which in those days had few social and no intellectual features. The first club in Maryland was started in Mount Washington, a suburb of Baltimore, as a neighborhood group. After a time an informal organization was effected under the appropriate name of the Nucleus. Its moving spirit was Mrs. Elizabeth Graham. Its story is told under its present name of Lend-a-Hand Club. It now owns its club-house, and has an active membership of one hundred and fifty women.

Baltimore has been stimulated along the lines of intellectual advancement by the Johns Hopkins University and by the possession of a specially cultivated class among its citizens. The Walters gallery and magnificent collections have been practically the possession of the student workers for many years, and the public and private libraries are of exceptional excellence.

The Lend-a-Hand Club, of Mount Washington, is the oldest of the Maryland clubs. It was started in 1872, mainly for philanthropic purposes, but reorganized in 1888, so that the literary and social features which had grown out of it might be made a part of its integral life. The first article of the constitution provides that "This club shall be called the Lend-a-Hand Club, and shall consist of not less than twenty members, ten of them acknowledged Daughters of the King. It shall be absolutely unsectarian, having for its watchword, 'In His Name'; its talisman a purple ribbon or Maltese cross, and for its motto Edward Everett Hale's well-known lines for the groups of King's Daughters:

" 'Look up and not down,
Look forward and not backward,
Look out and not in,
LEND-A-HAND.' "

The object of the club "is that of mutual helpfulness and neighborhood improvement, and to that end have been organized a circulating library, departments of philanthropy, domestic economy, industry, literature, music, and art, and an exchange for woman's work has been established. Others may be added as the need arises."



MRS. ELIZABETH T. GRAHAM,
President Lend-a-Hand Club,
Mt. Washington, Md.

The by-laws state in regard to membership that "any woman in good standing, actuated by the principles of this club, and desiring to work with it, can become a member when introduced by one active member and endorsed by another, if no objection is offered in the Executive Board, to which her name must be first presented."

The Lend-a-Hand Club owes its existence and success to its first and only president, Mrs. Elizabeth T. Graham. As early as 1866 she inspired little weekly meetings, which met from house to house for neighborhood culture and improvement. The name and method changed from time to time, but Mrs. Graham's kindly spirit and self-sacrifice held the society more or less together through all its vicissitudes, and made it the foundation of the Lend-a-Hand Club.

In 1886 Mr. E. E. Hale, in an address made to the society, remarked that the "lend-a-hand" spirit seemed to prevail among them, and upon his suggestion the name and motto were adopted, and the Lend-a-Hand Club organized under a constitution, with Mrs. Graham as its elected president.

During several years Mrs. Graham had also interested a group of young ladies in courses of reading, the study and practice of music, and literary culture. In 1888 she succeeded in uniting both interests in one fine organization designed to "foster the higher life and the better womanhood."

"There is nothing," says the historian, "of the new woman about it. It is neither a literary nor charitable nor social nor political nor religious nor mutual admiration nor a village gossip club. It simply lends a hand wherever it thinks a helping hand is needed; not in a meddlesome or officious way, but in the spirit of mutual helpfulness. Its members try to teach each other how to get most out of life."

While the membership is confined to people in good social standing, it is not exclusive. Social snobbery is not tolerated. "Any woman," says its constitution, "in good standing, actuated by the lend-a-hand spirit and principles of this club, and desiring to work with it, can become a member when introduced by one active member and endorsed by another, if no objection is offered in the Executive Board, to which her name must first be presented."

The club has about one hundred and fifty members. The dues are two dollars and fifty cents a year, with a five-dollar initiation fee. Weekly meetings are held, and the club has the usual features of club life: colors, badges,

mottoes, etc. Its membership is composed almost entirely of women living in the city of Baltimore and its suburbs, who are interested in home and husband, and are ambitious to make wifehood and motherhood mean as much as possible. The club is incorporated, and owns a beautiful club-house costing over six thousand dollars, and has a well-established position in the community.

Each year the work is divided among a number of sections or departments. Each department is in charge of a chairman, who invites membership and arranges and conducts the work. All members enroll themselves for work with one or more sections. Each section may hold as many private meetings as it wishes, but it must have one or more public meetings at which a carefully arranged programme is given. In this way the weekly meetings are made very pleasant and profitable.

This year the club is divided into seven departments: Philanthropy, in charge of Mrs. W. A. S. Beasley; education, Miss E. Grace McCullough; domestic science, Mrs. E. N. Brush; social economics, Mrs. Lewis Dill; literature, Mrs. O. F. Hershey; music, Mrs. J. M. Mealy; art, Mrs. Wm. Yardley.

The club name is now a trifle misleading. Philanthropy necessarily plays a considerable part in the club work, but it is not the most prominent feature. No single charitable appropriation can exceed five dollars, and such gifts are always made through well-established charity organizations. The club has fostered the Silver Cross Home for Epileptics, at Port Deposit, Md.; the Hospital for Consumptives, Baltimore; Miss Bernwell's Home for Crippled Children; the Anchorage, Baltimore; Miss Dinwoodie's Social Settlement, Baltimore; etc. This department also does considerable charity work in the community, and its public programmes are among the most inspiring of the year.

The club is not a literary club in any sense of the word. The literature section is in a flourishing condition, and every effort is made to interest the whole club in literature as a force in the individual daily life; it is not studied nor discoursed upon in any scholarly or academic way, but the members try to assist each other to appreciate only the best in books generally and to keep in touch with current literature in its higher expression. Its public programmes are made up of original talks and papers prepared by the members of the section. Its motto, "Neglect not the gift that is in thee," voices the department's protest against the formal paper of an encyclopædial flavor. The rejected manuscript celebrity is unknown.

These departments are taken as types to indicate how the club is conducted. The same spirit and plan prevail generally. The section on education branches out into papers on travel, lectures, etc. It also does some kinder-

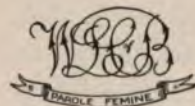
garten and public school work. Domestic science aims at creating ideals for the proper atmosphere of culture, progress, and refinement in the home. Social economics has done good work in connection with many of the public institutions of the city. Its ex-chairman is now a member of the Jail Board of the city, a position of much honor and importance. Art and music have a wide range of work, and are very popular departments.

All the departments unite occasionally in some form of entertainment, usually of a money-making character. Each year the club holds its harvest moon fête, which has become the chief rural festival of the community, and is largely patronized.

The officers of the club are : Mrs. John T. Graham, president ; Mrs. Alcaeus Hooper, first vice-president ; Mrs. John A. Lawrence, second vice-president ; Mrs. Charles Lanahan, third vice-president ; Mrs. T. C. Gambel, treasurer ; Mrs. J. M. Carter, recording secretary ; and Mrs. F. B. Hooper, corresponding secretary.

S. R. H.

The Woman's Literary Club is the oldest literary club for women in Baltimore. It was organized March 22, 1890, and, as stated in the first address delivered by its founder and president, Mrs. Lawrence Turnbull, was formed "to encourage exact and noble thinking among our women; hoping to prove that added strength will cultivate larger grace of speech and manner, keener instincts of pure womanhood, a deeper appreciation of the precious opportunities of the home life, with a truer comprehension of its responsibilities—a broader and not less loving and believing heart."



Ten ladies of Baltimore were associated with Mrs. Turnbull in its foundation. These have grown now to a membership of seventy, and thirteen honorary. Each member subscribes to the following pledge:

"Esteeming it a privilege to belong to the Woman's Literary Club of Baltimore, I will be loyal to its aims and methods, carefully guarding its reputation and striving to increase its influence so long as I retain my membership."

Meetings for the admission of new members are held twice a year by the Board of Management, which is elected to serve two years, the general officers being elected annually.

The work of the club has been purely literary from the beginning. It is opposed to women's clubs entering the field of reform, and believes their influence is better felt in the work of intellectual advancement and social culture. It works under committees upon education, current criticism, archæology, the drama, unwritten history, ancient and modern poetry, and other subjects and divisions of subjects. Whatever the field, the effort is

towards the attainment of the highest order of literary excellence. The record of work accomplished shows an extraordinary amount of published literature by members, including books, magazine articles, lectures (single and by course), and critical essays. Among those authors who have brought distinction to the club are Miss E. F. Brent, Mrs. Florence Earle Coates, Mrs. Mary Noyes Colvin, Miss Ellen Duval, Miss Marion D. Dorsey, Christine Ladd Franklin, Mrs. L. B. Herrick, Olive Thorne Miller, Mrs. John T. Graham, and others.

A day in November, 1894, was given in honor of Oliver Wendell Holmes as "Poet," "Essayist," "Humorist," "Professor," "Genial Companion," "Story Teller," "Physician," "Lover."

Regular meetings are every Tuesday from the first of October till June. The last Tuesday in the month is called a "salon," and one hour is given for discussion of the subject in hand. In February, 1895, the "Tendency of Modern Fiction" was discussed under the following heads:

Is the legitimate purpose of fiction merely to amuse?

Is not its influence for good or evil more potent than that of any other class of literature, or than any of the other arts?

Why should a moral purpose in fiction mar its artistic success?

Is not the short-story the necessary product of our times?

Does an age form its literature, or literature its age?

Several of the meetings of that year were given to Egyptian studies, such, for instance, as "The Pyramid Builders," "Three Queens of Ancient Egypt," "The Pharaohs," "The River of Egypt," "A Study of the Twelfth Dynasty."

In May of the same year a reception was given to the officers of the Johns Hopkins University and several of the literary associations of the city. An exhibit of valuable curios and rare old paintings was a feature of this occasion.

The annual address of the president, June, 1896, contained so admirable a statement of the attitude of the club towards its work that it is a matter of regret not to present it entirely, but space will only admit of the following extracts:

"Does our title hold any hint that we are to strive tacitly, if not specifically, for some special good to woman in our literary work; that we are, in some sense, to uphold those qualities which are essentially womanly—not necessarily attributes of women only, nor sought for as differentiating them from men, but that we are to emphasize, as opportunity may offer here, those gifts and qualities which conduce to a nobler womanhood? Surely.

"Then, as a Woman's Literary Club, this purpose should fix our *point of view* in our contact with literature.

"From this point of view the question broadens at once, touching vital interests for whatever is strong and beautiful and true; for we will not give up the claim that woman's part in life should be the ideal or spiritual, however darkly nineteenth-century influences hint of lower standards by exalting the practical and urging the advance of woman on material lines.

"But if these are the darker hints of a time full of great possibilities, all the more should the influence of woman be exerted upon the ideal side; all the more should she jealously claim and fill her part in life, for never was it more needed, more strenuously marked out for her, and by these very causes. . . .

"We have found, then, a definite point of view from which to approach literature. Let us call it *the modern need of the ideal*. It should fashion our standards, determine our criticisms, and color our writings. . . .

"We need not seek to multiply pleas for the treasuring of the ideal in our literary associations; we know that it is by our attitude rather than by our attainment in any department that we may hope to make ourselves felt. In literature, as in life, this should be the woman's province, and we may be sure that in this day of progress this note of freshness, of warmth, of spiritual charm is a distinct need.

"The idealist can have no issue with those who plead for the precision of method, the carefulness of study which realism has introduced into art.



MISS ELIZABETH T. KING,
President Arundell Club, Baltimore, Md.

The value of these things cannot be overestimated; for it must be confessed that a certain slovenliness and inadequacy have too often been faults of the ideal and spiritual school—in art as in thought. This is, doubtless, one reason why the productions of the ideal school have not always carried the weight to which their matter entitles them. It will continue to be so—increasingly, according to the more definite methods, intellectual and scientific, which keep pace with the rapid development of our age—unless the fact is recognized by those who assert that idealism is higher than realism, and unless they perfect the lower in striving to reach the higher plane."

There has been no president of the Woman's Literary Club but Mrs. Lawrence Turnbull. The vice-presidents (1896) were Mrs. W. R. Bullock and Mrs. Gaston Manly; the corresponding secretary, Miss Grace Balch.

The life of the club is a very delightful one to its members. It entertains distinguished men and women of letters, both native and foreign, and has set a high standard of literary and social attainment.

The Arundell Club, of Baltimore, was organized in 1894, just previous to the second biennial convention of the General Federation in Philadelphia, with which it was at once affiliated. Its membership during the first two years reached the limit fixed by the founders, which was three hundred women.

The annual address of the president, Miss Elizabeth T. King, in 1895, summarized both the work and the aims of the first large department club in the State. The following is quoted: "The Arundell Club was organized in 1894 with thirty-three members; it now numbers two hundred and sixty-three, is within thirty-seven of its limit, and looks forward to that aim of all clubs—a waiting list. It held its first meeting in a private parlor. It now has the first woman's club-house established in Baltimore, furnished without touching the emergency fund or going into debt, and already there is a decided feeling that our present comfortable quarters are becoming too small, and that our ultimate destination is to be located upon that street where all good clubs go.

"The life which has gone on in our club-house is of a varied character. Public meetings, sectional study, committees for public work, social entertainments, musicales, field days, and not least of all, quiet hours spent by members over the periodicals, have all contributed to form the complicated organization which women are pleased to call a club, but which means much more if considered from a sociological standpoint.

"We are not supposed to cherish extreme ideas in Maryland, but I think we can safely say that the Arundell members, though working slowly, are none the less successfully combining home and club life, and show much appreciation of both. There are six subcommittees which attend to the numerous details of this department. The Entertainment Committee provides receptions by which it is enabled to show its appreciation of the interest manifested by many prominent men in Baltimore, whose counsel has been most valuable, and it also gave an opportunity for women, who did not know each other, to exchange pleasant intercourse.

"As Baltimore grows larger, the tendency of society is to divide into cliques; these are all more or less represented in the Arundell Club, and as its social life becomes developed, much pleasure and profit will ensue from the breaking down of these barriers."

The Library Committee reports that thirty periodicals, English, French,

and German, are upon the table for the use of members, and are much appreciated by them, so much so that, at times, the wear and tear have amounted almost to complete destruction. A nucleus for a library for use of members was formed within the first year, and much thought bestowed upon the cultivation of a social side for young members, as well as the pursuit of serious work. In the sections it was the object of each chairman to induce her membership to study thoroughly whatever subject was under investigation, to facilitate and train members in correct methods. Expert leaders were at first engaged from the Johns Hopkins University, under whom classes were formed for the study of Chaucer, the masters of German literature, and the growth of modern French poetry. A political economy class was organized, conducted by Dr. Hollander; Frances Walker's "Political Economy" the text-book. The class numbered twenty-one members, and was not confined to lessons; it held animated discussions on the tariff, the theory of production, socialism, and the laws of distribution and exchange. The subsection for practical work has held frequent meetings, in which different members have, in turn, led in the discussion on the care of dependent children in institutions, the placing-out system, legal restrictions for child labor, and the like.

Meetings of the educational section were at first weekly, but afterwards fortnightly, for the discussion of subjects of present educational interest, such as the kindergarten, the development of the public school system, and the modern training school.

One of the most interesting developments in the Arundell Club has been the recent formation, under the joint action of the two above sections, of the first Woman's Good Government Club in Baltimore. Women not members of the Arundell Club, who are interested in this subject, are admitted to membership without, however, sharing in the other privileges of the club.

The club is not concerned with politics or parties, but seeking primarily to arouse a civic conscience in its members and in others, it is interested in what may broadly be termed municipal housekeeping.

The literary department has resolved itself into English, German, and French sections. The chairman of the English section reports that fortnightly meetings have been held, and that there is a membership of twenty-five. They began with talks on the universities of Oxford and Cambridge, after which the modern English essayists were considered.

The German section was conducted in German, and Professor Wood, Johns Hopkins University, gave an address upon "The Work of German Women in Literature." In the French section the members studied the new literary psychological movement, the influence which helped to form it, and its reaction against the naturalists. Some of Paul Bourget's poems, travels, and

later novels, and especially his literary essays, were read, and reference made to the contemporary critics Brunetière, Lemaître, Pellissier, and others in whom French literature is specially rich. Professor Elliott, Johns Hopkins University, opened the class with a most inspiring talk on methods of study, and Mr. Ogden, Johns Hopkins University, gave an interesting address on the late poet, Leconte de Lisle.

In the home department a suggestive and practical programme was arranged for the second year, which included "The Nutritive Value of Foods, Including Marketing, Utensils"; "Home Sanitation, Sewerage, Water Sup-



RECEPTION ROOM, ARUNDELL CLUB, BALTIMORE, MD.

ply, Plumbing, Public Removal of Garbage"; "Housekeeping and Expenditure of Family Income, Compared with Results in Europe"; "Coöperative Housekeeping"; "Executive Ability: Can It Be Acquired? and How to Increase It"; "The Service Question, from the Standpoint of Employer and Employee"; "Care of Children and the Nurse Problem."

A current events section was projected as an arena for general discussion.

The first president's address closed with the following words: "Whatever may ultimately be the character of a woman's club, its best development is only possible by action based on the past. All successful movements are dependent upon gradual evolution from past conditions and upon historic continuity; and the social power, love of home, the instinct of caring for

children, the grace and charm of past generations, are good foundations for the broader life, which includes not only one's own children, but the neglected ones of the State ; not only one's own household, but the city of which it is a unit ; not only the individual circle, but the club life, which is rendered doubly attractive by the exercise of qualities which give their charm to home."

The Arundell Club is based on the modern department plan of the Woman's Club in Chicago. In its work it draws largely upon outside sources, men as well as women. In art there are projected exhibitions of work both



ARUNDELL CLUB HOUSE, BALTIMORE, MD.

native and foreign ; and music, which is covered by that section, has been a source of enjoyment to the club from its beginning.

A sketch class has also been organized, and a practice class for sight-reading of piano music.

As is common in all large department clubs, a section, or class, which is practically a subsection, may be organized whenever a sufficient number of members ask for it, who are willing to maintain it and have found a leader. The sections are usually permanent, but the classes change with the requirements of members or when a special class has fulfilled its object.

The president of the Arundell Club is Miss Elizabeth D. King; the secretary, Mary Wilcox Brown, who is also the chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation in Maryland.

The real founder and inspirer of the Arundell Club is the president, but among the women who have taken an active part in the Arundell Club work are Mrs. I. I. Abel, Miss C. Bond, Mrs. E. H. Griffin, Mrs. R. T. Sionssat, and Mrs. W. Reed.

The Arundell Club is now established in a very handsome home in Charles Street, which it hopes to own in the near future.

Massachusetts

STATE FEDERATION

As a preparation for federated life, this State had the advantage not only of the existence since 1868 of the New England Woman's Club, but of a number of old and well-organized clubs, and of many small clubs in well-settled districts in close contiguity and easily reached. Several of the older clubs had held large meetings, at which many small clubs were represented before State federations were formed. Among these were Worcester Woman's Club; Old and New, of Malden; the Springfield Woman's Club, and others in a less degree.

The report of the State chairman of correspondence (Mrs. M. F. Pratt), made at the biennial of the General Federation at Chicago in 1892, says: "When the General Federation was organized two years ago Massachusetts numbered eleven federated clubs; to-day there are twenty-six pledged to its interests."

A second report from the same chairman in 1893 at the congress in Chicago increased the number to forty, and announced the formation of the State federation in the spring of 1893.

A letter from the State secretary says: "Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs was organized and held its first annual meeting on June 14, 1893."

The call was made by the New England Woman's Club, of Boston, which had appointed a committee some months previously to correspond with the local clubs of the State and discover the sentiment in regard to forming such an organization.

The meeting in June was held under the auspices of the following Board of Officers: President, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; vice-presidents, Mrs. J. K. Adams, Mrs. M. R. Hill, Mrs. P. N. Kendall, and Mrs. E. N. L. Walton; secretary, Miss Florence Everett; assistant secretary, Mrs. M. E. Mason; treasurer, Mrs. A. N. Blodgett.

The directors elected for three years were: Mrs. S. S. Collins, Mrs. Julia K. Dyer, Mrs. S. T. S. Leighton.



MRS. JULIA WARD HOWE,
President New England Woman's Club,
President Massachusetts State Federation,
Honorary Vice-President General Federation

The by-laws defined the object "to secure more thorough acquaintance, and, in case of need, united action, among the women's clubs of Massachusetts."

Massachusetts was the fourth State to form a federation. It began with a membership of twenty clubs, but did not at first join, or, to quote the report, "become auxiliary in any way to the General Federation. As an organization it is entirely independent, with one standing committee (legislative), whose duty it is to keep itself informed on legislative matters, and report to the clubs when united action seems necessary."

Subsequently (February, 1894) the State joined the General Federation. We have no detailed record of the first annual meeting, but give the following extract from the address of the president:

"The intention of the federation," she said, "is purely democratic. People do associate sometimes in the interests of tyranny; but our object is to multiply the service which the few can render to the many, and thus to extend the important principle of self-help throughout the community. Many of you may live at inconvenient distances from the great centres of social and literary activity, but none of you live remote from the power of individual thought and study. Such thoughts and studies are greatly enriched by exchange and mutual comparison. The clubs themselves supply these in a great measure, but the meetings of the State federation should be the culmination of the club life, offering to each and all the unified record of its labor and experience. . . .

"In the years of work which lie before the women of Massachusetts, we shall often need to mass lights, to unite efforts. In the various clubs which we now learn to know, we see the lights that we shall need; we feel assured that, when the need comes, the effort will be made. . . .

"What the State most needs is to find where capacities lie hidden, that it may bring them forth from their concealment to combine and utilize them. We will combine the modest talents which do not assert themselves. By thus seeking we shall find leaders when we want them; we shall find talents, . . . the blessed variety of human endowments answering to the variety of human needs. . . .

"The clubs have already done much to render the latent power active and efficient in the community; but in order that its action may be properly focussed, in order that it may have the best chance of wise and practical direction, it is good for the clubs to meet on the larger ground of the federation. The State federation can meet oftener and more easily than the General Federation. Its tendency will be to emphasize representation. Different regions will develop different needs and occasions, as each State in the Union contributes to the strength of the Union."

In addition to the annual meeting three meetings are held during the year in different parts of the State, which all members of the clubs forming the State federation may attend. Subjects of general interest are provided for at these meetings by addresses from club members or others.

While the Executive Board does not in any way control the clubs, or interfere with their methods, which must depend largely on local conditions, it often brings to their notice some phase of practical work in which united action would be helpful, and suggests ways of carrying it out. The first quarterly meeting was held at Berkeley Temple, Boston, on Wednesday afternoon, December 12th. These meetings were gatherings of members of all federated clubs; were confined to one session, and involved no entertainment. They were a most practical and useful evolution of federated work in a State where there are so many small towns and many clubs.

The programme consisted of several papers followed by discussion. Labor furnished the keynote for this first meeting, the leading address being "Strikes: Their Causes and Remedies," by Prof. Edward Cummings, of Harvard University. This was followed by a paper from Miss H. M. Winslow upon the same subject, and one from the working man's standpoint.

The second meeting, in February, was devoted to literary subjects, and that in April to philanthropy.

An annual report, made in 1894, contained an interesting summary of the number of clubs existing throughout the State; one hundred and sixty-six were found, thirty-eight of which had become enrolled in the State federation.

Since 1894 the State Committee of Correspondence has published annually a complete list of clubs in the General Federation, with their officers, and added to this a list of club lecturers, leaders of classes, and professional readers. At the beginning of 1895 the list numbered forty clubs, having doubled its growth since its beginning. The three years since that date have seen a far more rapid increase.

The annual meeting of 1895 was held in Channing Church, Newton. Over a thousand club-women were present, and were welcomed by Mrs. W. N. Baker, president of the Social Science Club, Newton.

The reports of officers were followed by the annual election, which resulted in some changes, but also the reelection of Mrs. Howe and Miss Florence Everett. The vice-presidents became Miss O. M. E. Rowe, of New England Woman's Club; Mrs. May Alden Ward, of the Alden Club, Franklin; Mrs. E. N. L. Walton, West Newton Educational Club, and Mrs. H. E. Bean, of the Dorchester Woman's Club. The secretaries and treasurer remained the same as at first, and the directors elected for three years were Miss H. M. Winslow, Miss E. G. Weatherbee, Mrs. M. O. Atwood, Mrs. A. B. Eastman, and Miss Ella Fiske.

Mrs. Howe's address was upon "The Influence of Women's Clubs upon Society."

In the subsequent general discussion Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney spoke of the fact that the clubs of Newton have formed the first local federation, which every city should have.

"The public library," she said, "should be a pet object with women of the clubs. Think what the libraries are doing for young people. And they may be made places not only of educational, but of desirable social value. The effect of the woman's club in the towns, too, should be very great. We should work until there is no such thing as going down into the slums. We should, by example and work, teach all people to love cleanliness and to maintain it. We should make beauty lead on the whole community to love of cleanliness, and a world fit for human beings to live in."

Mrs. Emma Endicott Marean read an interesting paper concerning the club's effect on the home. She said: "There are three principal ways in which the club influences the home—by developing the woman who helps make the home, by the direct information it gives concerning improved methods of home-making, sanitation, and child-training, and also by its influence on homes other than those of its own members."

Resolutions of sympathy with the Armenians were adopted, and a second resolution, read by Mrs. Cheney and adopted on motion of Mrs. Dyer and Mrs. Adams, was:

Resolved, That we extend to the Woman's Club of Chicago our cordial sympathy and union in the noble stand they have taken in affirming that character and intelligence, not color or race, be the tests of membership in their club.

The December meeting of 1896 was held, by invitation of the Haverhill Literary Union, at the First Universalist Church in that city.

The general subject discussed consisted of "Some Problems in Civics." The speakers were Mr. E. H. Capen, president of Tuft's College; Joshua Atwood, deputy superintendent of streets, Boston; Samuel F. Hubbard, and Dr. Durgin, chairman of the Board of Health, Boston.

The afternoon session was given to the Consumers' League, represented by Mrs. F. Nathan, of New York, and "Labor Legislation as It Affects Women," by Mrs. C. G. Ames, of Boston.

An April meeting (date not given) was held in the Berkeley Temple, Boston; subject, "Science at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century." Electricity was discussed by Prof. Arthur L. Kimball, of Amherst College; meteorology, Mr. A. Lawrence Rotch, proprietor of Blue Hill Observatory, and astronomy, Mrs. Mabel Loomis Todd, of Amherst.

"The Out-of-door Sciences" were the subjects of brief papers by Miss

Ives, Miss Peabody, and others. Dr. Magill, of Paris, talked upon the "Progress of Medical Science," and a general summary of the whole subject was made by Prof. E. S. Morse, of Salem.

The annual meeting in June, 1897, was held at Great Barrington, by invitation of the Thursday Morning Club. It was a very large and delightful gathering.

June in the Berkshire Hills has been celebrated in song and story, but only personal knowledge can do justice to all the charms which make so perfect a whole.

The ladies of the Thursday Morning Club had made every possible preparation, beginning with a fine reception in the church parlors, which were profusely decorated with the club flower, and at which refreshments were served.

The first vice-president, Miss O. M. E. Rowe, presided in the absence of Mrs. Julia Ward Howe. She greeted the delegates in her happy and cordial manner, and introduced Miss E. W. Sheldon, who welcomed the delegates on behalf of the Thursday Morning Club.

The secretary's report outlined the organization of the federation from its inception in 1893 to the present time. Her figures stated that 3 organizations had been formed between the years 1848 and 1868 that are now registered among the clubs; 6 were formed between the years 1870 and 1880, 17 between 1880 and 1890, 54 between 1890 and 1897. About one-fifth of all the clubs are incorporated; 50 per cent. of all the clubs have a membership of 100 or less; 25 per cent. have between 100 and 200; 13 per cent. between 200 and 300; 7 per cent. between 300 and 400; four have over 400. Five clubs in the State have a membership fee under \$1; 22 have a \$1 fee; 1 has a fee of \$1.50; 30 have \$2, 15 have \$3, 6 have \$5, and 1 has \$10.

The roll-call showed that there were 68 represented out of the 125 clubs in the federation. The following officers were elected for 1897-98: President, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe; vice-presidents, Miss O. M. E. Rowe, New England Woman's Club; Mrs. May Alden Ward, Alden Club, Franklin; Mrs. Electa N. L. Walton, West Newton; Mrs. Marcia E. Chamberlain, Chelsea; secretary, Miss Florence Everett, New England Woman's Club; assistant secretary, Mrs. Mary E. Mason, Hyde Park; treasurer, Mrs. Adelaide N. Blodgett, Newton; directors (for three years), Mrs. P. P. Kellogg, Springfield Woman's Club; Miss Caroline D. Cogswell, Haverhill; Mrs. M. L. Todd, Amherst; Mrs. Oliver Crane, Wednesday Morning Club; Miss Mary F. Merriam, Andover. Papers were read by Mr. H. F. Bailey, State supervisor of drawing, and Mrs. E. D. Cheney, of the New England Woman's Club, Boston; also, "Clubs as a Factor in Individual Development." This last

topic was discussed in five-minute addresses by Mrs. Mary Dame Hall, president Sorosis, New York city; Mrs. Clara S. Lovell, first vice-president Worcester Woman's Club; Mrs. Frank L. Young, president Dorchester Woman's Club, and Mrs. Francis Hornbrooke, Social Science Club, Newton.

In the evening there were greetings from the vice-president of the General Federation, Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, and from the New York State Federation, through the honorary president, Mrs. Croly, of New York city, and from Connecticut, through its president, Mrs. E. B. Noble, Norwalk, Conn.

A symposium on "The Club Idea" considered first "The Problem of the Large Department Club," the papers by Miss Whittier, president of the Middlesex Club, Lowell, and Mrs. May Alden Ward, of Boston; second, "Clubs as a Civic and Ethical Force," in papers by Miss Emily Williamson, of Elizabeth, N. J.; Mrs. Ruth Gibson, of Medford, and Mrs. E. S. Morse, of Marlborough; "Club Influence for the Beautiful."

The addresses closed with an important one by Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, of the State Board of Education, upon a "Comparison of American and European Public Schools"; and the evening, which began with the beautiful "Pastoral" by Wachs as an organ solo, ended with the singing of a parting song written for the occasion by Mrs. Sara T. S. Leighton, of the Home Club, East Boston.

A strong appeal was made by Mrs. E. S. Morse, of the Tuesday Club, of Marlboro, against the killing of birds, and a resolution adopted that endorsed Mrs. Morse's view.

Subsequently a "bird" circular was sent out by a committee, of which Mrs. Morse was chairman, recommending that attention be given to the fact that certain species of birds are becoming extinct, such as the snowy heron of Florida, the paroquets of the Carolinas, the wild pigeon of the prairies, the tern of the Eastern coast; while the California heron, the humming-bird, scarlet tanager, bluebird, and others are fast disappearing. Women are charged with being the active agents in this extermination of our wild birds; notably by Chapman in his "Birds of Eastern North America," by the biological division of the United States Department of Agriculture, and by the American Ornithological Union. Clubs are asked to seriously consider this question.

The Committee on Education, Mrs. Walton, chairman, called attention, in a circular sent to all of the clubs, to the recommendation of the General Federation that consideration be given by clubs and State federations to educational topics or questions connected with the public schools in their locality during the year.

In accordance with this recommendation, the committee suggested that each Massachusetts club set apart one or more sessions to discuss some one

or more of the following topics, applying them to its immediate neighborhood:

"The School Building"—its location and surroundings, its sanitary conditions, proper furnishings; "Manners and Morals"—mechanical duties: punctuality, order, neatness, diligence, silence; moral training: necessity of moral training; methods: incidental opportunities, fixed time and plan for instruction; "Means of Æsthetic Culture"; "Nature Studies"; "Household Economics"—care of rooms: sweeping, dusting, ventilation; cooking; sewing: making, mending; "Manual Training"—why, when, where, how; "Compulsory Attendance"—how help those too poor to attend comfortably; "Day Nurseries and Kindergartens"; "How Teach Kindness to Animals; Respect for Persons, Property; Patriotism, Philanthropy"; "The Necessity of Skilled Supervision and of Employing Trained Teachers"; "What Shall Children Read?"

Electa N. L. Walton,
Jeannie W. Lincoln,
May Alden Ward,

Educational Committee of State Federation.

Another circular sent out by the same committee referred to the free text-book law of the State, and asked for information in regard to its operation.

A special meeting of the Education Committee was held at the Bijou Opera House, Boston, on Saturday, January 22d, at 2 P.M. As this was a special meeting of a committee, a very large gathering was not anticipated, and the presence of the largest number of women that had ever attended a federated meeting was therefore a surprise.

The general subject presented for discussion was, "Moral and Industrial Training." The topics were assigned under three heads: "What Shall Children Read?" by Prof. E. Charlton Black; "The Moral Value of Industrial Education," by Prof. William G. Ward, and "Manual Training for Girls," by Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer.

Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president of the General Federation, was an invited guest, and made an address on the general subject of education as represented in State federation work throughout the United States.

The quarterly meeting of the State federation was held at Attleboro on Wednesday, February 9, 1898. The subject was, "The Waste of Civilization."

Mrs. E. S. Morse took charge of the meeting in the absence of the president, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, who was spending the winter in Rome.

The club members present were welcomed by Mrs. Holden, president of the Round Table, which was the hostess club.

Mrs. Morse, the chairman of the Programme Committee, presented the subject. She was followed by Rev. Anna Garlin Spencer, of Providence, president of the Rhode Island Woman's Club, who spoke on "The Waste of Human Life," taking up many points, such as crime as diminished by civilization; labor, by reason of constantly changing elements in modern organization of industry; poverty and undue pressure on certain classes for means of subsistence; ignorance, steadily decreasing by means of public and private teaching and action; waste by disease, greatly decreased as regards the death-rate, but not in tabulation of sickness; waste by unnecessary friction and worry, increased by present conditions of striving to excel in all directions. "Our chief duty," she said in conclusion, "is to take moral charge of ourselves. If vice is the moral cancer, ill-temper and irritability constitute its malaria. They do not kill, but they open the way for fatal diseases." She urged all club-women to beware of the danger line between what she called "a moral reformer and a social scold."

Rev. Margaret Barnard, president of the Chelsea Woman's Club, took up the discussion of the subject as presented by Mrs. Spencer in her thoughtful paper. She considered especially the waste of life by intemperance, viewing this phase of vice from a purely economic standpoint, showing by statistics that \$171,000,000 are spent for public and private schools of the United States in one year, when \$700,000,000 were spent for liquor.

Laura V. G. Mackie, M.D., of Attleboro, viewed the loss of infant life from the point of waste, saying in opening that the death of every child is a definite loss of national wealth.

Dr. Amanda C. Bray, of the Worcester Woman's Club, opened the discussion that followed, calling attention to the neglect and ignorance that make such a long list of deserted babies as well as the appalling mortality.

Mary Lothrop Tucker, of the Newton Social Science Club, spoke of the destruction of forests. Her special stress was directed toward the influence of forests in regulating and directing the water supply, uniform in all seasons.

Miss Edith Barnes, president of the Northboro Woman's Club, contributed to the discussion on this important topic. A basket luncheon in the church vestry followed the morning meeting. The Round Table members acted as ushers.

An invitation was sent February, 1898, from the Executive Board of the State federation to all local club presidents to meet the board at a conference upon subjects of general and special interest. One of these is the formation of a Consumers' League in Boston, similar to the one existing in New York, and to which clubs are invited to give their attention. The State federation recommends this work.

There is no complete list, as far as known, of the State federated clubs in

Massachusetts. The Committee of Correspondence for the State, of which Mrs. Lilian G. Breed is chairman, sends out a yearly list of clubs and their officers, to which a list of lecturers, leaders of classes, and public readers is attached; but this refers only to those that are scheduled as belonging to the General Federation—forty in 1864, fifty-eight in 1896-97, and sixty-two in 1897-98. The number of clubs now in the State federation is stated by the secretary (February, 1898) as one hundred and twenty, with an aggregate membership of sixteen thousand women.

The Abbot Academy Club, of New England, was the outgrowth of a breakfast given to the retiring principal of Abbot Academy, after service of upwards of thirty years, at the Vendome in April, 1892.

At the breakfast were over three hundred and fifty famous men and women, including, besides alumnæ, Andover professors, masters, and teachers of the academy, and the leading clergymen of Boston and Cambridge. In numbers and brilliancy the breakfast to Miss McKeen was only excelled by the magnificent breakfast given to Miss Amelia B. Edwards by the New England Woman's Press Association in 1889.

The idea of the breakfast as well as of the club was conceived by Mrs. Laura Wentworth Fowler. Her first thought was of a scholarly club, which would form a sort of postgraduate course for the graduates of the academy. But this was crushed by Col. T. W. Higginson. Like most studious men, he advised recreation and entertainment for women's clubs rather than study; and the "scholarly" idea was abandoned.

The meetings, however, have not been without their literary interests. On one day of the year, usually in March, the senior class of the academy furnishes the programme. "Our Architectural Legacies" originated with Miss Elizabeth Chadbourne, '78, daughter of the late Professor Chadbourne, of Williams College, a member of the academy faculty, and was served in topics as follows: "From Earliest Times," from "Assyria," "Rome," "Egypt," "Greece," the "Catacombs," "Mosaics," "Dark Ages," "Gothic Art," "Basilicas," "Mahometans," the "Evolution of the Pillar," the "Evolution of the Arch," "Architecture of To-day," and "Architecture of the Future."

One December meeting took the form of a "Whittier memorial." Miss



MRS. L. A. W. FOWLER,
Founder and First President, Abbot
Academy Club

Edith Ingalls, '82, a member of the academy faculty, described a day spent at Whittier's home, by his invitation, with a party of academy girls. Miss Alice Hamlin, '87, of Wellesley College, read a paper classifying and reviewing in a unique way the writings of Whittier. Quotations at each plate, with recitations by Miss McDuffee, '90, and music by Miss Dewey, '90, both of Boston, varied the programme. The members of the club enjoyed in January the presence of Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, '73, a vice-president, who read for their pleasure from "Timothy's Quest."

"The Abbot Girl in Literature" formed the topic for perhaps the best remembered meeting. Large numbers were present, and interest in the lengthy programme increased to its close.

Among those who contributed either in person or by proxy were Mrs. Elizabeth Stuart Phelps-Ward, '58; Miss Anna L. Dawes, '70; Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, '73; Miss Alice French (Octave Thanet), '68; Miss Anna Fuller, '72; Miss Miranda Mervin (Barbara Waite), '68; Lilly Dougall, Miss Elizabeth Chadbourne, and Mrs. Lawrence. Selections were read from Miss Phebe McKeen's "Thornton Hall," a story of school-girl life. Mrs. Lucile Trevitt Auryansen, '86, read a paper entitled "A Modern Shylock," published later in the *Outlook*, depicting with humor and pathos the frantic efforts of the woman of to-day to meet the demands society and charity make upon her. Mrs. Alice Merriam Moore, '74, of Washington, D. C., gave the experiences of a mother's attempting to apply modern hygienic physical and educational methods in rearing a family of eight children, with an account of her successes and failures.

Abbot Academy has had some noted women pupils. In addition to the authors mentioned above, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown graduated in the class of 1857. Mrs. Wiggin is always warmly welcomed at academy alumnae gatherings. She was presented with an Abbot Academy souvenir spoon bearing the impress of the old academy building and the new Draper Hall.

The meetings are held at the Parker House, Boston, monthly, from November to May. The Abbot Academy is the alma mater of many women distinguished in literature, and has sent teachers in art, music, science, and language throughout New England and the States at large, numbers of whom have identified themselves with the Abbot Academy Club. During its two years of life the club has witnessed a remarkable growth in numbers, and the material for its meetings has been derived entirely from its membership, and the faculty and pupils of the academy at Andover.

A brief business meeting precedes luncheon, and the literary exercises follow.

Perhaps the most notable of the gatherings of the Abbot Academy Club was in 1895, when, in conjunction with the New England Woman's

Press Association, a reception was tendered to Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, first vice-president of the Abbot Academy Club, ex-president of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, president of the Massachusetts Federation of Women's Clubs. Invitations were sent to the officers of all women's clubs of Massachusetts, as far as known, more than two hundred clubs being included, as well as to those of many gentlemen's clubs in Boston and vicinity. The day proved to be a charming one, and more than five hundred responded to the invitation. It was the most notable gathering of club-women ever held in Massachusetts. Governor Greenhalge allowed himself to be added to the receiving party, where he lingered all the afternoon. Among the many present were Lieutenant-Governor and Mrs. Wolcott, ex-Governor and Mrs. Brackett, Mrs. Samuel Eliot, president of Daughters of American Revolution; Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, Hon. Jonathan A. Lane, president of the Merchants' Association, and others.

Shortly after, Mrs. Fowler was compelled by a heavy bereavement to tender her resignation, but her record of work and services was gratefully acknowledged by electing her to the position of honorary president for life.

The first officers were: Mrs. Laura A. Wentworth Fowler, president; Mrs. Cooper Edgerly, '60, secretary, and Miss Floretta Vining, '61, treasurer. Its vice-presidents were Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, '57; Mrs. Emma Willer Guttersen, '74; Mrs. Kate Douglas Wiggin, '73; Mrs. Margaret Woods Lawrence, '29; Miss Anna L. Dawes, '72, and Miss Alice French (Octave Thanet), '68.

The Alden Club, of Franklin, grew out of a class in literature held by Mrs. May Alden Ward during the winter of 1893. The club received its name from its founder, who has also been its presiding officer from the start.

Its government is very simple, its meetings fortnightly, its entrance fee two dollars, and dues one dollar per year.

Its work is literary through lectures, papers, and conversations.

The membership is about seventy-five, and it has occasional evenings, club musicales, and other social occasions, in addition to the "gentlemen's" night, which occurs in January. The life is not made burdensome, and is very much enjoyed by the membership.

The Alden Club joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1893 as charter member, and the General Federation in 1894.

Amherst Woman's Club was founded in 1893 by Mrs. S. T. Maynard, who invited as associates in the preliminary work the following ladies: Mrs. Mary Y. Clark, Mrs. J. B. Clark, Mrs. D. P. Todd, Mrs. D. W. Palmer, Miss Mary Crowell, Miss Bessie Hitchcock, Mrs. C. B. Thomas, Mrs. J. B. Tuttle, Mrs. H. H. Goodell, Miss Helena Goesseman. The organization was called the Amherst Woman's Club, and its object "to consider literary, moral,

economic, and other topics of interest, and to promote culture and cordial personal relations among women."

The membership is one hundred and seventy-five, represented in nine standing committees: literature, education, social science, music, history, current events, science, miscellaneous, and social entertainment.

The meetings are held twice in each month, the first and third Mondays at 3 P.M., in the court-room of the town hall. The local interest in the club is very well sustained. The Education Committee has succeeded in introducing sewing in the public schools (lower grades) and hopes to prevail upon the authorities to establish a free kindergarten in connection with the same.

The Music Committee, of about fifty members, holds private chamber concerts once a month during the season; the work is done by the members, assisted occasionally by outside talent.

The club has also established the custom of an annual public reception to the teachers employed in the schools, so that the parents may have an opportunity to meet the instructors of their children. The benefit for the club has been great and marked by placing the elements, often strange, though so closely related, in sympathetic touch.

The club colors are green and white. The founder, Mrs. Maynard, is still the president; the corresponding secretary, Miss H. T. Goessemann.

The All-Around Dickens Club, of Boston, was formed in 1894, its *primary* object to oppose an increasing spirit of criticism of an author who consecrated the English language to highest purposes. In 1895 the society became an incorporated club, having for its stated object "the study of the writings of Charles Dickens, the creation of a greater interest in them, and the promotion of a united intellectual and social alliance."

The work has been done upon broad lines: the topography of the English country wherein the scenes are laid has been carefully studied, and many valuable papers from club members have been given upon the personages and in connection with the contemporaneous life and literature of the period.

The leader of the club, Mrs. Adelaide F. Garland, was its founder. She was chosen president at the time of its organization, and still retains the office. Miss J. B. Spurr has held the office of corresponding secretary since the same date. The treasurer is Miss Sarah E. Frothingham, of Cambridge. A vice-president and an advisory board of four directors are chosen annually. In January, 1896, the club was admitted to the State federation. The annual meeting is held on the fourth Wednesday in May. The club has been greatly benefited by the coöperation of its corresponding members, who have brought it in touch with other societies whose work is along the same lines in England, in the provinces, and in distant States. The active membership is at present about one hundred, and is unlimited.

The home of the club is in the club parlors at No. 23 Beacon Street, Boston. Intellectual hospitality has always prevailed, and the outlook for 1897-98 is for larger achievement and a cultivation of the most permanent in literature.

The Arlington Woman's Club was founded October 17, 1895, with the following officers: Mrs. C. H. Watson, president; Mrs. True Worthy White, Mrs. G. T. Freeman, vice-presidents; Mrs. A. A. Lawson, recording secretary; Mrs. H. F. Martin, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. Q. A. Brackett, treasurer; Mrs. W. D. Higgins, auditor, and an executive committee of twelve ladies.

The club was organized with forty members. Two preliminary meetings were held, and at the second of these, November 7, 1895, a constitution and by-laws were adopted. At the end of the first year there were two hundred and forty-seven members, paying an annual fee of \$3 each. At the close of the second year the membership was two hundred and seventy-four.

This club belongs to both the State and the General Federation. It works under departments in art, civics, education, home, literature, music, and science, and has been addressed by such well-known lecturers as Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, George W. Cable, Prof. George L. Goodale, Miss Lucia T. Ames, Hon. Moorfield Story, Mrs. Mary J. Lincoln, and Miss Sarah L. Arnold. At other meetings there have been read a number of excellent papers prepared by members. Enthusiastic class-work has been done, notably in the art and music departments. The choral class has delighted the club with fine music at every regular meeting, while the enterprise of the Committee on Schoolroom Decoration has enabled the club to place a picture or a cast in every public grammar or primary schoolroom in the town. Unabated interest in the club is shown by the members, who are all residents of Arlington, and are making it an important factor in the educational life of the town.

The Ashmont Tourist Club was founded February 11, 1891, with twelve members and the following officers: Miss Ida P. Baker, president; Miss J. Jaques, secretary. The object is the study of foreign countries along the line of imaginary journeys, with Miss M. J. Miles, of Waltham, as leader. Egypt was first studied, with "A Thousand Miles up the Nile" for a guide. Rome was studied in the same way with "Marble Faun," and Florence with "Romola." Ireland, England, Greece, and Germany have since been explored, taking an outline of the history, and studying points of interest in each city. Papers are written by members, and the meetings are found valuable and interesting. They are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month, with the annual meeting the first Wednesday in February. The club is not federated, and the membership is limited to twenty. The officers

at present are: Mrs. Harriet Furbush, president; Mrs. H. S. White, vice-president; Mrs. L. E. Grant, secretary; Mrs. M. A. Wilson, treasurer.

The Alpha Club, of Blackstone, was organized and a constitution adopted March 13, 1896. The club was admitted to the State federation in May, 1896. Mrs. L. A. Welch was the first president, and Mrs. A. B. White and Mrs. L. M. Pierce vice-presidents. The Alpha was formed for social and mental improvement, and the fifty members are very enthusiastic, willing to make every effort to broaden the field of educational work. The membership, unlike most New England clubs, do the greater part of the work. Meetings are held in the vestry of the Congregational Church, and expenses are small. The present list of officers is as follows: President, Mrs. Lucy A. Welch; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. B. White, Mrs. A. E. Mongeon; secretary, Mrs. S. E. Lamson, Woonsocket, R. I.; treasurer, Mrs. M. M. Chase.

The Browning Club, of Somerville, was organized December 10, 1894, with Mrs. I. G. Curtis, president; Mrs. S. Moore, vice-president; Mrs. H. B. Armstrong, secretary, and Mrs. E. H. Marston, treasurer. The latter resigned in May, 1897, and Mrs. M. Jenkins was elected to fill her place. Otherwise the list for 1898 remains the same. The club was admitted to the State federation November 11, 1896. The object is to interest members in Robert Browning's poems, hoping thus to promote a higher culture. Other poets are studied separately, and comparatively with Browning. This club depends on the members for literary work, the only outside talent so far having appeared at open meetings. Rev. Charles Malloy and Mrs. E. E. Marean lectured upon "Emerson and Browning" and "The Nature Element in Browning's Poetry," respectively. The club is limited to twenty-five members, and has excellent prospects for the future.

Boston Political Class.—In the winter of 1884 a few women connected with the National Woman's Suffrage Association of Massachusetts decided to add to their active work the study of politics, and formed a class for that purpose. This small body met in private houses for a while and studied quietly; but as membership grew and interest in the work deepened, it was found that its object could be best obtained as an independent organization. It therefore separated amicably from the parent society in 1892, and adopting a constitution of its own, changed its form as a class to that of a club.

The name, however, chosen in the beginning, was retained, and the object accomplished by reading, study, and discussion of such subjects as "Civil Government," "Constitution of the United States," alternating with papers on practical questions of the day, prepared by members and discussed in formal debate. Current political events are presented monthly by two

members who are appointed for the purpose, one taking the foreign news and making a digest, the other the home topics, and both given time for discussion. Besides the study of politics, the class has made a systematic study of parliamentary law under the guidance of its president, Mrs. H. R. Shattuck, who is the author of the "Woman's Manual of Parliamentary Law" and founder of Old and New, of Malden. A *résumé* of the topics discussed during the twelve years of its existence would include every political question of national importance and many of local interest—the silver question, the tariff, the Monroe doctrine, immigration, the Force bill, Venezuela, Cuba, Hawaii, and many others.

In 1896 there was a mock presidential nominating convention, and in 1897 a mock election of presidential electors a week preceding the national election. The coming year (1898) the class proposes to try a new departure, and to organize as a "Senate," introducing, discussing, and deciding upon matters in the regular form of petitions, reports, bills, and the like, copying, so far as possible, the *modus operandi* of the Massachusetts Senate.

All the work of the class is done by its members, with the exception of one meeting a year, when some man is invited to address the members on some interesting topic. This meeting is open to the public and free of charge.

The membership is limited to fifty, and there are no conditions, except the payment of an entrance fee of \$2 and an annual due of \$1.

The business is done in executive session by a programme committee, which has full power to arrange the work, subject to previous instructions from the whole body.

The Boston Political Class is distinctively a study club; it does no outside work, and has no social functions except its annual "breakfast" at the close of the season. Being small and busy, this club is very harmonious.

All the political parties are represented in the membership, and while the partisanship is at times intense, there has never been any hard feeling on account of such differences, and the members who differ the most widely in their politics, are the best of friends. This education in "agreeing to disagree" has been as valuable as the political education which the members feel that they have gained through the twelve years' study of the Boston Political Class.



MRS. H. R. SHATTUCK,
Founder and President Boston Political
Class; Ex-President Old and New,
of Malden

The present officers are: Mrs. H. R. Shattuck, president; Miss F. C. Foote, vice-president; Mrs. A. L. Read, recording secretary; Mrs. H. H. Robinson, corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. M. Jacobs, treasurer.

The badge of this club is a bow of pink ribbon, and its motto these words of Gouverneur Morris: "Politics: that sublime science which has for its object the welfare of mankind."

The Brighthelmstone Club, of Brighton and Allston, was organized in October, 1896, and admitted to the State federation April 14, 1897. It was called at first the Commonwealth Club, and the membership was limited to one hundred and fifty; but the new name was adopted and the membership extended before the club was six months old. The limit is now three hundred, and there are over two hundred on the roll-call, with excellent prospects of soon filling all vacancies. It was incorporated in July, 1897, "to become a centre of thought and action and to establish a place for social meetings." There is already a balance of over three hundred dollars in the treasury. Lecturers have been engaged for next winter, and a course will be open to the public for a small fee. The educational department and the Art and Literature Committee have arranged for classes in current events and languages, and there are signs that the new club will soon take rank among its older sisters. The officers are: Mrs. K. L. Marion, president; Mrs. E. E. Rogers, Mrs. M. F. Winship, vice-presidents; Mrs. Emily J. Burbank, treasurer; Mrs. Eliza J. Bates, recording secretary; Mrs. Laura Tuttle Hallett, corresponding secretary; and these officers, with Emily O. Pope, Harriet H. Emerson, and others, form the Executive Board.

The Boston Business League was organized December 17, 1894, with Mrs. W. B. Sewall, president; Mrs. C. M. Sprague, Mrs. A. E. Whitaker, Mrs. George B. Bigelow, vice-presidents; Mrs. J. S. Reed, treasurer; Mrs. E. A. Richardson, secretary. The membership was at first limited to one hundred, but was later increased by fifty. The greater part of the time since formation has been given to the study of the Massachusetts laws for women and children, the investment of money in real estate, mortgages, United States bonds, railroad bonds, stocks, time being also given to loan and trust companies, banking systems, making and signing notes, corporation business firms, and keeping record of changes that have occurred, such, for instance, as the law which now allows that a woman may be buried beside her husband without the consent of the children. The league has also published a paper, *The Business Folio*, edited and conducted by members, which has been in a way the record of the growth of the society. The league has never joined any federation. Mrs. Sewall, the president of the Boston Cooking School, was at the head of the league three years; but the present list of officers is: Mrs. N. V. Titus, president; Mrs. J. H. French, Dr. Baker-Flint, vice-presi-

dents; Mrs. H. B. Shepard, treasurer; Miss A. P. Moore, recording secretary; Mrs. A. E. Whitaker, corresponding secretary. Chairman of Committee on Ways, Means, and Membership, Mrs. E. P. Thayer; Committee on Finance, Mrs. William Lee; Committee on the Study of Commerce, Mrs. H. G. Minot; Committee on the Study of Laws Affecting Women and Children, Mrs. A. P. Lesser; Committee on the Study of Special Work of and for Women, Mrs. T. P. Gooding.

The Boston Grammar School Club was formed in June, 1894, with Miss E. W. Pitcher, president; Miss A. S. Morse, vice-president; Miss L. F. Stevens, secretary; Miss M. A. Nichols, treasurer. It joined the State federation in November, 1895, and has for its object the promotion of friendly intercourse among teachers and the discussion of school questions of mutual interest. The club work has consisted of lectures given by outside friends and informal talks on school questions by members. In future it is planned to make the work more systematic. Membership is not limited and is upwards of sixty-one. The annual meeting is in May, and the present officers are: Miss E. W. Pitcher, president; Miss L. F. Stevens, vice-president; Miss N. F. Brazer, secretary; Miss R. G. Rich, treasurer.

The Boston Mt. Holyoke Alumnae Association is like most school associations, formed to advance the acquaintance of members and to promote the interest of the school. Membership is limited to students of Mt. Holyoke. The association is making great efforts to raise an endowment fund of two hundred thousand dollars, nearly three-fourths of which is promised. The annual meeting is held in May, and the present list of officers is: Mrs. K. M. Phipps, president; Miss S. P. Eastman, Miss L. S. Watson, Mrs. M. H. Dyer, vice-presidents; Miss K. L. Adams, recording secretary; Mrs. J. E. Drinkwater, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. M. French, treasurer; Mrs. M. S. C. Benner, auditor.

The Cantabrigia Club.—In the beautiful university city of Cambridge, widely celebrated for its great seat of learning, its homes of the poets, its picturesque streets and notable residences, its civic morality and good citizenship, the woman's club is a no less permanent feature of activity than in other communities.

It does not boast the venerable standing of some other clubs, but in its six years' existence it has attained an enviable reputation, and looks forward to a future rich in promise of enlarged usefulness.

Its organization was unpremeditated. It came about in this way: In March, 1892, two classes which had been occupied during the previous winter in a study of current events, under the leadership of Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill, met at her house for the last session of the season. In discussing the iniquities of the "sweating system," which was then agitating Congress, Mrs.



MRS. ESTELLE M. H. MERRILL,
Founder of Cantabrigia Club, Mass.

Merrill commented upon the evils for which the system is responsible, and the good that "a live woman's club" could do in offsetting them. The instant response was, "Let us have such a club," and it was organized then and there. Directly on organization it created several departments of work. These are: art, literature, music, current events, education, the home, civics, and philanthropy. Classes have been formed in each department, most of them with an instructor, but a few doing mutual work. The literature section has studied Dante, reviewed current literature, spent a season each with French literature and history, American literature and history, and the social and literary history of the nineteenth century. The art department has studied the Renaissance period and the architecture of the Greek,

Roman, and early Christian periods.

The education section has furnished botanical lectures, chief of which was one by the lamented Hamilton Gibson, who combined the botanist and artist so happily as to enchant an audience, whether it were one to whom he spoke or one that delightedly scanned his written page. Lectures also in psychology were arranged for mothers and teachers, the latter being invited free of charge.

The whole club participated in establishing a Radcliffe scholarship for the benefit of a Cambridge student, one of the best things done in the educational line.

In music the club has attained more than a local fame, and its choral class has sung again and again before club and public audiences. It is one of the most indefatigable departments, meeting weekly through the season. Its chairman and conductor are both professionals, and the results obtained are of a high order of excellence.

The civics section has studied the city charter and ordinances and held classes for drill in parliamentary law. A celebration of the Fourth of July planned by the department, and carried out by the club assisted by the city government, was a most creditable affair and one greatly enjoyed by the school children for whom it was planned.

The philanthropy section has lent the helping hand to so many good causes that their mention would seem like a catalogue. A mass meeting in aid of the Greek women, and another for the protection of birds, with a

course of ten lectures by Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller on our "Common Birds and How to Know Them" following, were occasions of great pleasure and profit. The establishment of a summer kindergarten for twelve weeks in a crowded part of the city and the project of a manual training school for girls are to be things accomplished in the near future.

The current events section for several seasons had the instruction of its beloved first president, Mrs. Merrill, than whom none better could be found to inspire a class with enthusiasm.

This department, under Mrs. May Alden Ward, the present president, continues its old time popularity.

But the home section, by its notable domestic science exhibit in January, 1894, is the one of all the others that has made the name of the club famous, and has invited the inquiry of far-off clubs. The idea was conceived by Mrs. Merrill, and the details planned by her before being given to an efficient committee who carried them out to success.

This exhibit was an education in itself, and opened the new and fascinating field of household economics to the many hitherto preëmpted by the chosen few who had studied it carefully. In addition to the exhibit there were lectures by experts in domestic science, including demonstration lessons in marketing, the chafing dish, and the kitchen garden classes.

The history of Cantabrigia would be far from complete without a tribute to the gifted woman who was for the first four years its inspiration and chief executive, and whose interest, though her official connection is severed, is still vital and strong. To Estelle M. H. Merrill Cantabrigia owes more than itself is aware. At the outset none of the members of committees were club-women or familiar with framing a constitution. It would be recalled by any of the charter members how its president did all the work and still effaced herself so that it appeared that the committee were equally important. Hers was the guiding hand, the informing mind all through the formative stage of the club's growth. She was its mother, "and as a mother, for her child, has her love, pride, and joy in its present, her faith and hope for its future" have been enlisted.

The ideal of service to others, which was its origin and inspiration, must remain with the club as her legacy forever and still inspire its future action.

Chelsea Woman's Club held its first meeting on October 6, 1893. Unlike the earlier clubs, it needed no fostering. It started with a membership of two hundred, and within the year acquired an additional membership of a third hundred. The club was, in fact, formed from the union of two already organized bodies.

Through the efforts of Mrs. Susan R. Hood, a Young Woman's Educational Union was formed in Chelsea in December, 1889; this a year later,



CHELSEA WOMAN'S CLUB, MASS.

MRS. ELIZABETH P. TENNEY, Founder

MRS. MARY E. SAWYER, First President MRS. MARCIA E. CHAMBERLAIN, President

and through the instrumentality of Mrs. Anna C. Lee, developed into a Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, and continued its good work until the annual business meeting in May, 1893. At this time there was in progress a course of lectures given by Mrs. S. R. Hood, and attended by eighty representative women, to whom Mrs. M. E. Sawyer had opened her doors on alternate Friday afternoons.

It was from the union of the members of this class and those of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union that the nucleus of the Chelsea Woman's Club was formed.

About the time of the final meeting of the union the president, Mrs. E. P. Tenney, met Mrs. M. E. Sawyer, and the two leaders agreed to join their forces to form a woman's club. The eighty members of the class and the

hundred odd members of the union were notified in the spring of 1893, and a time and place designated for a meeting to be held for the election of officers. The response to the call resulted in the election of a board of directors, with Mrs. M. E. Sawyer as president.

There the matter rested until after the summer months had passed. The first meeting of the Executive Board occurred September 22, 1893, to arrange for the first regular meeting. By-laws were drafted, and Gould Hall was secured as a place of meeting, and on October 6, 1893, the first regular meeting of the Chelsea Woman's Club was held.

In December of the first year steps were taken to secure a charter, and on March 19, 1894, such a document was received from the commonwealth of Massachusetts, stating that the club was made a corporation; its object, "coöperation for mutual benefit in social and educational relations, and for the establishment and maintenance of a place for social meetings." Soon after, imbued with the spirit of progress and with a desire to unite with the larger club movement, the Chelsea Club applied for admission into the General Federation of Women's Clubs, receiving its certificate of membership on March 19, 1894.

At the beginning of the second year, club classes were formed in French, German, literature, and parliamentary law, and to-day the classes still form an important feature of the club work. In February, 1895, the club joined the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs.

In May, 1896, Mrs. Sawyer was succeeded, after a most successful term of three years, by the present incumbent, Mrs. Marcia E. Chamberlain, who is one of the charter members, has been a vice-president since the formation of the club, and has its interests greatly at heart.

The government of the club is vested in a board of directors composed of the general officers and nine members at large. The chairmen of departments are chosen from this board, and they choose their committees from the club.

Among the lecturers have been Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson, Miss Alice Stone Blackwell, Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz, Miss Charlotte Hawes, Mrs. Susan R. Hood, Prof. E. C. Black, T. W. Higginson, Mrs. Ednah D. Cheney, and Mrs. Alice Ives Breed.

The club has listened to some fine readings, and given a number of receptions and other entertainments. It has had many debates, in which its own membership has taken part, and is more and more interested in cultivating home talent. In every direction it covers broad ground, and is an educational as well as social force.

One of the unique organizations of Boston is the **Committee of Council and Coöperation**, or, as it is popularly called, the "C. C. C." It is a delegate

committee, consisting of one or more members from the twelve following-named societies: Young Women's Christian Association, Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, Woman's Christian Temperance Union, Ladies' Aid of the Soldiers' Home, Society in Aid of Discharged Prisoners, State Federation of Women's Clubs, Woman's Charity Club, Woman's Press Association, Helping Hand Society, Moral Education Association, Massachusetts School Suffrage Association, and Ladies' Physiological Institute. The aggregate membership of these societies is several thousand, which the Committee of Council and Coöperation is authorized to represent under the limitation of its constitution, which defines its powers and limits its action in such a way as to secure each association against any compromising use of its name and influence. Its object is "to promote a spirit of unity and helpfulness among the associating societies, and to facilitate active coöperation in measures and methods of work of common interest. It holds four or more meetings, as its business may necessitate, each year, and has standing committees to look after its different departments of work. It was organized in 1889, and meets at the Educational and Industrial Union. Under its constitutions other organizations are admitted to representation by a two-thirds vote of the societies already represented. Each society pays into its treasury one dollar each year, and each new society pays an admission fee of two dollars. With this seemingly insignificant sum it has carried on its work. The Committee of Council and Coöperation was the outgrowth of a committee of women of Boston, who, with the Hon. Josiah Quincy, now Mayor of Boston, as their counsel, worked for the establishment of police matrons and for the establishment of the house of detention in Boston. This voluntary coöperation proved so successful as to suggest the idea of future work, and the establishment of a permanent coöperative committee of delegates from different organizations, whose object should be to promote a spirit of unity and helpfulness among associating societies, and to facilitate active coöperation in measures and in departments of work of common interest.

The Current Events Club, of Ayer, was organized March 25, 1895, "for mutual improvement and social intercourse" by a small company of ladies called together by Mrs. H. E. Hartwell. One of the aims is to awaken interest in the larger questions of the day and afford an opportunity of discussing them. The first president was Mrs. S. M. Barker; secretary, Miss Sarah T. Tuten. Little was done the first year outside the regular meetings for the discussion of current topics and new books. At its close it was decided to hold social meetings through the summer. These meetings proved very enjoyable and served to keep alive the interest in the club. The annual meeting occurs the last Monday in April. Mrs. Hartwell was elected president for the second year, and the programme was more varied, embracing

biography, domestic economy, travel, and art. In addition, several lectures were given, to which the members were allowed the privilege of inviting guests. These were very successful, and while thoroughly enjoyed, served to make the club and its aims better known. The club was admitted to the State federation in the summer of 1896, and was represented at the meeting of the federation at Salem. The membership is limited to fifteen, and numbers thirteen. The officers for the year are: President, Miss S. T. Tuten; vice-president, Mrs. E. F. Kittredge; secretary, Mrs. E. M. Robinson; treasurer, Miss Tuten; chairman of Programme Committee, Mrs. H. E. Hartwell.

The Current Events Club, of Hyde Park, originated in a current events class, which was conducted for several years by Mrs. E. M. H. Merrill, and which numbered at one time over sixty members. In the summer of 1894 the ladies decided to form a club and dispense with the services of a paid teacher. In October, 1894, a meeting was held in the parlors of Mrs. Louise M. Wood, and the Current Events Club, of Hyde Park, organized. At the close of the third season in 1897 the membership had become one hundred and twelve. The first officers were: Mrs. L. M. Wood, president; Mrs. H. A. Wyman, vice-president; Mrs. H. F. McIntyre, secretary and treasurer. The club joined the State federation in the fall of 1895. It does not as yet belong to the General Federation. The avowed object is to gain a broader knowledge and better understanding of the events and questions of the day, and to quicken interest in humanity, good government, and the progress of the world. Meetings are held every week, when prominent events and leading questions are discussed and fine papers are read by club members or outside talent, as the case may be. Some of the subjects considered by members last year were "The Indian Question," "Pension Legislation," "Reading for the Young," and "Municipal Government." The club year begins the first Wednesday in October, and ends the last Wednesday in April, when the annual meeting occurs. The present officers are: Mrs. L. M. Wood, president; Mrs. A. L. Hanchett, Mrs. F. P. McGregor, vice-presidents; Mrs. H. F. McIntyre, secretary; Mrs. Eliza H. Chick, treasurer.

The Castilian Club, of Boston, was founded February 8, 1888, by Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson after a visit to Spain. The club numbered thirteen at the outset; but this proved far from being an unlucky number, as the Castilian Club has flourished, and is regarded as one of the most desirable clubs of Boston. Its limited membership of one hundred and twenty-five is always full, and it rejoices in the same president as in the beginning—its founder. There is one man on the Board of Directors, and there have always been a few in the membership; still, it is essentially a woman's club and so considered. The object, as stated in the constitution, is "to acquire knowledge concerning Spain: its geography, history, literature, language, arts, and social

conditions." Meetings are held on alternate Wednesdays. The present subject of study is the reign of Philip III. of Spain, with papers to occupy three-quarters of an hour by members only. The club owes much of its success to its president, who has been untiring in her devotion to its interests. The annual meeting is held the first Wednesday in February. The club always celebrates Queen Isabella's birthday, April 22d, by a "Spanish dinner." The present officers are: Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson, president; Mrs. C. H. Colburn, Mrs. Oliver Crane, Mrs. J. Howard Nichols, vice-presidents; Miss R. R. Joslin, recording secretary; Mrs. G. P. Gross, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. R. Miller, treasurer. The club is not a member of any federation.

The Casmian Club, of Springfield, is composed of teachers that held their first meeting April 17, 1877; the avowed object, "to read and study the best literature and to promote interchange of thought and opinion among members. Miss Sara F. Tobie was the first president; Miss Margaret Bliss, vice-president, and Miss Ellen M. Strickland, secretary. The membership then included teachers of the high and grammar schools; its present members are mostly grammar school teachers. It belongs to neither federation. The present membership is eleven, with twenty as the limit. No effort is made to increase the membership as old members drop out, the club having arrived at that condition of acquaintance where it seems like a family, and hesitates about taking in strangers. Last year the members made a study of Rome: its ancient history, points of interest, and their relative position. Last summer every member read "Romola," and the first meetings this year had that for a subject, and Florence, Paris, and London were studied later. Miss E. J. Steele is the president; Miss Elizabeth P. Bigelow, vice-president; Miss Ella J. Ross, treasurer; Julia E. Smith, secretary.

Cambridge has several Shakespeare clubs of men and women. One of these met as the Social Reading Circle as early as 1865. In 1882 the name of **Cambridge Shakespeare Club** was adopted, and has been retained. Merchants, army men, lawyers, city officials, their wives and children, are among its members. It is, of course, unfederated.

What is known as the **Old Shakespeare Club** dates from 1880. This has the Shakespearean scholar and authority, William J. Rolfe, for its president. The vice-presidents and secretary for the year are also men, but the treasurer is a woman, Miss A. M. Jones.

The Cambridge Social Union was organized in November, 1896, by Mrs. A. J. Lloyd and some other members of the Cantabrigia Club, who associated with themselves other efficient and interested women for social and literary culture. The president is Mrs. Lloyd; vice-president, Mrs. C. F. Lang; recording secretary, Miss M. L. Sayre; corresponding secretary, Miss M. E. Gibbs; treasurer, Miss Katherine Leonard. The club meets fortnightly in

the parlors of the Social Union, and several distinguished speakers have addressed it upon special topics.

The Athena Club, of Dorchester, was organized in February, 1897. It started with a membership of twenty-five young women, now increased to seventy-five, which is the limit. It is known as the "bachelor-maids'" club. It works under several committees, but the Entertainment Committee is the most active. Its president is Miss C. C. Stecker; secretary, Miss M. Deering; treasurer, Miss J. F. Ballou. The meetings are held fortnightly on Saturday evening at the Dorchester Central Club house. The annual meeting is in February. The club provides for one special course of public lectures during the season.

The Clinton Woman's Club was organized March 20, 1896. A long-felt interest in clubs and their work and a keen desire to enter the rapidly increasing ranks of earnest women, who year by year are asserting an influence for the good of their sex and community, was the motive power that drew together, after several conferences, twenty-seven women who signed the comprehensive constitution and by-laws and became the charter members of the Clinton Woman's Club.

At the close of its first year its membership list numbered seventy-six, and is not limited. The first Board of Officers elected were: President, Mrs. M. H. Stone; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. L. H. Rogers and Miss M. E. Vickery; secretary, Mrs. C. Newhall Breed; treasurer, Miss E. A. Fiske; auditor, Miss N. Kent. This club was admitted to both the General and State Federations April, 1897. "The specified object is to promote mental culture and helpful intercourse among its members, and to develop broader ideas of the responsibilities and privileges of women." The general subject for the first year was "Prominent Americans of the Nineteenth Century." Ethics, art, science, literature, history, education, and current topics are divisions under which the club works. It has given one free lecture to the board and teachers of the public schools, and presented one school building with a set of art photographs, "The Twelve Masterpieces." For 1897-98 four classes have been formed, viz.: literature, social science, current topics, and tourists. Parliamentary law will receive special attention. The year-book will be issued January 1, 1898. The annual meeting takes place on the third Friday in May. The officers for 1897 and 1898 are: President, Mrs. M. H. Stone; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. L. H. Rogers and Mrs. N. B. French; secretary, Mrs. C. N. Breed; treasurer, Miss M. Breed; auditor, Miss N. Kent.

The Colonial Club, of Marlboro, was founded on November 9, 1896, by seven women desirous of studying the histories of the American colonies. Meetings are held on alternate Monday afternoons. The object, as stated, is "intellectual, social, and moral improvement of its members and society in

general." The first year was devoted to the study of the "Forefathers of New England." This year the Bay State colonies are under review, together with some of the old painters and current events.

The membership of the Colonial Club is limited to thirty, and there is a long waiting list. Meetings are held in drawing-rooms of members, and the annual meeting comes in April. The officers for 1898 are : Mrs. G. N. Cate, president ; Mrs. A. C. Lamson, vice-president ; Miss C. F. Burdette, secretary and treasurer.

The Concord Woman's Club was organized March 26, 1895, with Mrs. George M. Brooks as the president, and Mrs. Edward C. Damon corresponding secretary. Sixty-two members were present at the first meeting, and the first and fourth Mondays of each month from October to April were appointed "club" days. The annual fee was placed at one dollar. The club joined the State federation in November, 1896 ; the stated objects, "educational and social culture." There are classes in botany, German, English, art, history, current events, civics, and literature. Each class has a leader and a secretary, and the classes entertain the club at the regular meeting once each during the season. There is also an occasional lecture from outside. The annual meeting is held the third Monday in April. The membership is now one hundred and eighty-two. Classes are being extended, and a fine programme is in preparation, with more lecturers from outside than formerly for the club season of 1897 and 1898. The president is Mrs. Abby F. Rolfe ; vice-president, Mrs. G. A. King ; recording secretary, Mrs. G. E. Vialle ; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. C. Damon ; treasurer, Mrs. C. W. Prescott ; auditor, Mrs. E. S. Barrett.

Danvers Woman's Association was founded in 1882 by Miss Annie M. Wentworth, who, in April of that year, called together Mrs. E. P. Heaton, Mrs. L. S. Temple, and Mrs. S. J. Trask at the home of Miss Ann L. Page for the purpose of organizing a woman's club. *"Vivimus et consideramus."* From this small beginning the membership has grown to two hundred active women, represented by Committees upon Literature, Science, Work and Education, Philanthropy, Topics of the Times, Music, Hospitality, and Business. There is also a committee on the "press," of which the members are press women, led by Mrs. Evelyn F. Masury, who was the president for three years, from 1893 to 1896.

The class work began with her leadership, and has since become an important feature of the association. It includes (1897) business, book reviewing, parliamentary law, and French.

The club has always taken deep interest in the schools, and through its influence a woman has been elected a member of the School Board, and the public was aroused to the advisability of securing a superintendent of schools.

Although the association was well managed and had a firm hold even in its

early days from being brought in touch with the General Federation and later with the Massachusetts State Federation, it owes much to the untiring efforts of Mrs. E. F. Masury. To her, and to the faithful work of Mrs. I. E. Kenney, the recording secretary, is due much of the credit of that broader and more stimulating life which has made the Danvers Woman's Association known as one of the leading and most prosperous clubs of the State.

The Danvers Woman's Association joined the General Federation in 1891, and the State federation in 1893. Its flower is the violet; its motto, "*Vivimus et consideramus*." The president (1897) is Miss Sarah E. Hunt; vice-president, Mrs. A. B. Holbrook; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. G. Hood.

The meetings are on alternate Tuesdays, beginning in October and ending in May. The annual fee is two dollars. Members serving on the "Tea" Committee are entitled to a ticket which will admit a husband or friend. Other members pay twenty-five cents for this privilege.



MISS SARAH E. HUNT,
President Danvers Woman's Association,
Mass.



1892
WOMAN'S CLUB

Dorchester Woman's Club was founded early in 1892 by Mrs. Charles Ripley, who invited a few of her neighbors to meet at her house and consider the project of forming a woman's club. The idea was so acceptable that it was found necessary to hold the third meeting in a church. There were so many applicants for admission that the limit was rapidly changed from fifty to one hundred, one hundred and fifty, and so on, until the limit was placed at four hundred, and now there is a waiting list of one hundred and fifty, with new ones added every month. The club seal is the only insignia, and the club is very proud of it.

*"As one lamp lights another, nor grows less,
So nobleness enkindleth nobleness."*

It is the old Dorchester seal, The three towers at the top are in memory of Dorchester, England; while the Blue Hills, the Neponset River, the first church, mill, and school-house are seen below.

The club meetings are held on the second and fourth Tuesdays in each month, beginning in October and ending with the last of May. The Executive Committee consists of the general officers and twelve directors. This body manages the affairs and admits members. There are four standing com-



MRS. HARRIET E. BEAN,
President Dorchester Woman's Club,
Mass.

mittees: social science, art and literature, education, and social entertainment. From these committees five members are chosen annually to form the Nominating Committee. Beside the department meetings there are special meetings, upon which such well-known men and women as Mrs. Margaret Deland, Mr. George W. Cable, Miss Agnes Repplier, and Rev. Samuel J. Barrows have been heard.

The department papers are generally by club members, and are followed by discussion. Music is an important feature of every club meeting, and is usually drawn from the choral class.

In March, 1897, the club purchased a lot on Center Street with the ultimate intention of building a club-house, and later, in May, obtained a special charter, having as its object "to provide a club-house for the comfort and

convenience of the Dorchester Woman's Club."

The local history class entered upon its third year with fifty-five members. Beginning with the settlement of Dorchester, the work has embraced the whole colonial period, devoting the present year to the Revolution.

As an appropriate close to 1896 the Local History Class, of Salem, a kindred organization, whose hospitality the class had previously experienced, was invited to Dorchester. Points of local interest were visited, lunch was served at the Bernard Capen House, papers describing methods of work were interchanged, and cordial relations established between these modern representatives of two venerable towns.

The choral class was organized in 1895, and will be permanent. It attained a high degree of excellence under the leadership of Mrs. Martha Dana Shepard. There have been two classes in cookery, led by Mrs. Mary J. Lincoln. The movement for a club-house is progressing well. The development of some of our members has been marvellous. The growth in self-control, independence of judgment, respect for the will of the majority, and consideration for others has been great. A charity fund has been contributed by the members and placed in the hands of a committee, who receive all applications, and recommend the seemingly most deserving to the club.

The president of the club (1897) is Mrs. Harriet E. Bean; vice-president, Mrs. Mary C. Eddy; recording secretary, Mrs. Alice Taylor Jacobs; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Ellen E. C. Blair; treasurer, Mrs. E. C. R. Whiton.

Daughters of Vermont originated with Miss Helen M. Winslow, of the *Club Woman* and *Boston Transcript*, and Mrs. B. N. Galpin, of the *Summerville Journal*, in February, 1894. These ladies called together forty other Vermont-born women at "Parker's" on an afternoon early in March.

Miss Winslow, who is an ex-president of the New England Woman's Press Association, presided, and it was then and there decided to form a club, to be called the Daughters of Vermont. A committee was appointed to draw up a simple constitution, the desire being to create as little cumbersome machinery as possible. It was also definitely settled that the club should be formed for social purposes

alone, and not for study or philanthropic work of any kind. The first officers were: Mrs. Oliver Crocker Stevens, president; Mrs. Albert E. Pillsbury, vice-president; Mrs. Ellen E. C. Blair, secretary; Miss Helen M. Winslow, treasurer.

Mrs. Stevens was chosen as the first officer not only for her admirable qualities, but because she represented one of the first families of Vermont, her father, Hon. J. Gregory Smith, of St. Albans, having been the famous "war governor" of Vermont and the chief guiding spirit of the railroad systems of that State. She served two years, and resigned against the wishes of the entire club, having won the love and respect of the two hundred members to a remarkable degree.

Soon after the formation of the club a reception was given at the Vendome, where all meetings are held, to the Governor of Vermont, Hon. Levi K. Fuller, Mrs. Fuller, and members of the staff. Governor Brown, of Rhode Island, and Governor Greenhalge, of Massachusetts, with their staffs, in uniform, were present, and the affair was one of the most brilliant club receptions of Boston.

In 1895 a reception was given to Governor and Mrs. Woodbury, of Vermont, which was most pleasant in itself, although saddened by the fact that Governor Greenhalge, who had previously accepted an invitation to be present, lay upon his death-bed. This affair commemorated the admission of Vermont into the Union, as the fourteenth State, on March 4, 1791, and this date was at first chosen as the time for the annual reception. Last year,



MISS HELEN M. WINSLOW,
President Daughters of Vermont, Mass.

however, the date was changed to November 24th, when a brilliant reception was given to his Excellency Gov. Roger Wolcott, of Massachusetts, and his wife, who is universally beloved by club-women. Receptions have been given at other times to Mrs. Helmuth, president of Sorosis; Miss Mary E. Wilkins, Mr. and Mrs. Robert Tabor (Julia Marlowe), Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, and others; and on the afternoon of January 21, 1897, the club celebrated its recent admission to both State and General Federations by a reception to Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, president of the State, and Mrs. Elizabeth Merritt Gosse, representing the General Federation.

The club was incorporated in June, 1897, and numbers two hundred and twenty-nine members. Meetings are held the third Thursday afternoons of each month from November to April inclusive.

Two literary meetings were held last season which were devoted to Vermont's early history, with very interesting papers by members, and it is probable that others will be heard the coming year, with one musicale under the direction of Mrs. Oliver Crocker Stevens.

The annual meeting is now held the third Thursday in March, and the present list of officers is: Miss Helen M. Winslow, president; Mrs. Louise F. Pillsbury, Mrs. Ellen Dana Orcutt, vice-presidents; Mrs. Anna E. Barton, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Maria Hall Parker, recording secretary; Mrs. Lucy J. Woods, treasurer; Mrs. Oliver Crocker Stevens, Mrs. Charles H. Greenleaf, Mrs. Charles B. Bigelow, Executive Committee.

Honorary membership includes only such distinguished women as live or have lived in Vermont. Among these are Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr, Mrs. William Dean Howells, Miss Mary E. Wilkins, Mrs. J. Gregory Smith, Mrs. Justin S. Morrill, Mrs. William M. Evarts, Mrs. Theodore Thomas, Mrs. Redfield Proctor, Mrs. Horace Fairbanks, Mrs. Levi K. Fuller, Mrs. Urban Woodbury.

The Dedham Woman's Club was organized April 19, 1893, with Mrs. H. T. Boyd as the president. Membership is limited to one hundred, and has reached to about eighty. The club joined the State federation in November, 1895, having for its object "to awaken in its members an interest in topics of general and social importance by means of lectures, essays, and critical discussion."

The prospects for the coming year are unusually bright. The annual meeting is held the third Wednesday in May, and third Wednesdays are the general meeting days throughout the year.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. Mary F. Hutchins; vice-president, Miss E. C. Fisher; recording secretary, Mrs. M. F. Cormerais; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. A. P. Cutter; treasurer, Mrs. G. Y. Noyes.

The Deerfield Society of Blue and White Needlework is a curious survival which was begun in the desire to perpetuate pieces of old Puritan

needlework, like those in the famous Deerfield Memorial Hall. Miss M. C. Whiting and Miss E. Miller were the founders of the society, and are still its leaders. It numbers about a dozen members, all of Deerfield. The club has a seal, and the work is mostly confined to needlework of a very beautiful and artistic description. It is, of course, not federated, and quite different in aim and scope from the woman's club.

The Elizabeth H. Whittier Club, of Amesbury, named for the sister of the poet of Amesbury, was organized on March 19, 1896, with the following officers: President, Mrs. E. B. Smith; vice-presidents, Mrs. A. M. Horton, Mrs. M. A. Osgood, Mrs. M. S. Rowell, Mrs. J. A. Hawley; secretary, Mrs. E. O. Perkins; treasurer, Mrs. A. E. Howarth.

The objects of its formation were to unite for the common good the women of Amesbury, and, if possible, to aid in making the Whittier home a permanent memorial to the poet. The number speedily increased until, in the fall of 1896, the limit of two hundred members was reached; since that time, on account of the large waiting list, the number has been increased, until at present there are two hundred and fifty members, with a waiting list. There are departments of art, literature, current events, social economics, education, and music. The work done by the classes has been of a high grade.

The meetings are held fortnightly, as are the meetings of the different departments.

There have been during the past year lectures by Prof. E. S. Morse, Miss Jane Addams, Miss Agnes Repplier, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Davis, and others, besides receptions and musicales.

In March and April of 1897 the club joined the State and General Federations. It was incorporated in January, 1897.

In the charitable branches of the social economics department a sewing society has worked for the poor of the town; clothing and food have been distributed.

The club has its badge and paper, its ushers costumed (the Quaker cap and kerchief being the distinctive portion of the dress), and looks forward to the coming year with the hope that its motto, "Unity and breadth," may be a true expression of the manner and purpose of its work.

The annual meeting takes place on the first Monday in May. At the last meeting the following officers were elected: Mrs. E. B. Smith, president; Mrs. M. A. Osgood, Mrs. M. S. Rowell, Mrs. J. A. Hawley, Mrs. A. J. Fielden, vice-presidents; Mrs. E. O. Perkins, recording secretary; Mrs. A. M. Horton, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. E. Howarth, treasurer; Mrs. H. H. Douglass, auditor; and a board of eight directors.

First Educational and Industrial Union.—The originator of this grouped idea for philanthropic and industrial work was a young English woman, Dr. Harriet Clisby, who, after graduating from the Woman's Medical College of New York city, removed to Boston and gathered about her a group of women who met on Sunday afternoons at her residence, and gradually developed a plan of helpful work which took form on June 11, 1877. On that date, after several preliminary meetings had been held, the First Educational and Industrial Union was organized, with Dr. Harriet Clisby as its president.

In the autumn of 1878 Dr. Clisby left Boston for a needed rest and trip abroad, her health having become much impaired. Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz was elected to fill her place, a position she still occupies.

From that time the history of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union of this country is largely the history of the work of Mrs. Diaz.

For the past ten years she has devoted her time to the organization, direction, and strengthening of the work upon all the lines which have naturally grown out from it.

The union from the beginning was entirely unsectarian. Its divisions were very much like those of a department club. It had Lecture and Class Committees, an Industrial Committee, and Committees on Art and Literature. It also included a bureau of information, a Befriending Committee, Employment and Legislative Committees, and a Sunday Afternoon Committee for Working Girls.

The Class Committee organized, some of them entirely free, all at low rates, classes in sewing, English, penmanship, bookkeeping, freehand drawing, millinery, dressmaking, designing, stenography, French, German, botany, and other studies. In 1889 forty-two classes had been formed, some elementary and others more advanced.

The Industrial Committee antedated the work of the Woman's Exchange, superintending all the departments of articles received for sale, including foods, clothing, and decorative objects. The amount paid to the consigners in May, 1888, for the work sent in for that year, was nearly thirty thousand dollars, and the commission paid to the treasurer of the union upwards of three thousand. Four-fifths of this sum was obtained by the sale of home-made food.

Under the auspices of the Art and Literature Committee, courses of lectures free to members, instituted upon subjects descriptive, artistic, biographical, philanthropic, and practical, were arranged.

There are also courses of lectures free to the public upon such useful topics as emergencies, home-nursing, foods, and practical economics.

The noon lunch was a later development, but has proved one of the

most useful and welcome features. It provides simple yet well-cooked and appetizing dishes at such low prices as to be within the means of the poorest; and it welcomes the country shopper who brings her own luncheon, and wants only shelter and accommodation, for which nothing is charged.

The Committee on Social Affairs takes charge of all that belongs to the entertainment of guests, the reception and the reading rooms. These are well supplied with papers and magazines, usually contributed. The library, which has grown to ample proportions, is in the hands of a subcommittee.

The Protective Agency became of special importance not only by the work it accomplished, but by its existence, which threatened exposure to evil-doers.

The movement in 1886 and 1887 for the employment of police matrons was begun by the Befriending Committee of the Woman's Industrial and Educational Union. Failing in its efforts with the State Board of Police and with the city government, it invited the coöperation of other organizations of women, and petitioned the Legislature of Massachusetts for a law providing for the employment of police matrons in Boston, with its widespread outlying districts, and also in all other cities of the State having thirty thousand inhabitants and over. This law passed the Legislature April, 1887.

The work of the "mother" union has grown steadily year by year, until it has become the centre of a great system of educational and industrial activities. It owns its own building, spacious, commodious, and fitted in every way for its needs, and occupies the energies, more or less, of fifteen hundred helpful and actively philanthropic women.

Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz is, and remains, the devoted leader of this organization; the broadest and wisest of any scheme of philanthropy which had ever appealed to the sympathies of women.

Mrs. Diaz has assisted in the organization of most of the unions founded upon the basis of the original plan. Buffalo, Rochester, Dunkirk, Syracuse, and Auburn in western New York; San Francisco; Washington; Covington, Ky.; Brattleboro, Vt.; Providence, R. I.; and Saco, Maine—all have their Educational and Industrial Unions. All are not alike in the detail of their work, but all are centres of helpful influence, and follow closely the model upon which they have all been created.

Fitchburg has a large and flourishing woman's club, which was organized December 7, 1894. The first officers were: Effie M. F. Hartwell, president; M. P. Snow, Annie P. Lowe, vice-presidents; M. L. Garfield, recording secretary; Henrietta Baker, corresponding secretary; Josephine V. Lawrence, treasurer; Fannie B. Davis, auditor. The membership is limited to two hundred and fifty, exclusive of honorary members, who number twenty-eight. Ministers' wives of Fitchburg are made complimentary members, and there is

a list of "associate members," who pay fifteen dollars a year (the regular fee being three) for women over fifty years of age who do not care to take active part in the work of the club. Regular members are required to identify themselves with one or more sections, this being a "department" club. Residents of Fitchburg are not allowed to attend any meeting unless they are members of the club, but visitors from other clubs are received if credentials are presented to the president or secretary. The club is formed "to encourage women in all departments of literary work, to secure all possible social and intellectual advantages for its members, and to practically consider the vital questions of the day." Regular meetings are held the first and third Wednesdays of each month from October to June, the annual meeting occurring on the first Wednesday in June. The club joined the State federation in December, 1895, and the General Federation in May, 1896. The club season opens October 6th with a business meeting. October 20th a lecture is given under the auspices of one of the sections, a debate following. The science section has charge of three meetings, and the literary section of three. The art section is represented by papers and discussion, and also a lecture by Mr. Henry T. Bailey. The music section is studying the general subject of opera, and the life and works of Schumann. The literary section is studying the works of Tennyson, Howells, Alice and Phoebe Cary, Lucy Larcom, Norse myths, and American humorists, and Mrs. Abby F. Harris has classes with readings from Matthew Arnold, Swinburne, William Morris, Arthur Hugh Clough, Coventry Patmore, and Robert Buchanan. In the art section the study includes frescoes, plaster casts, the twelve great masterpieces, Raphael's madonnas, and the famous salons of France. The science section includes classes in sewing, cooking; parlor, bedroom, and dining-room work; the home beautiful, electricity in the home, the chafing-dish and its uses, and social science as applied to hospitals and children's refuges. "Gentlemen's night" occurs February 18th, and there was a Japanese tea May 4th.

The present officers are: Mrs. E. M. F. Hartwell, president; Mrs. M. G. Woodward, vice-president; Miss M. L. Garfield, recording secretary; Mrs. E. M. Cushing, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. A. Morse, treasurer; Miss E. F. Blood, auditor. Mrs. Hartwell is serving her fourth term as president, and the success of the club under her leadership is evidence of her fitness for the office. The Fitchburg Club is established on a solid foundation, and is recognized as one of the institutions of the city. In all things pertaining to the public welfare it takes a lively interest, and exerts its influence in many ways that make it a help and support to those outside its membership who are working for better conditions in social and educational life.

The Fortnightly, of Winchester, was founded in 1881. Mrs. Ann B. Winsor was the first president, and held the office seven years. The club has

benefited the members, their families, and the various interests of the town, particularly the public schools, and it has taken deep interest in affairs beyond the town. Its aim is "to become a centre for united thought and action," and it has become a social force in Winchester. The Fortnightly joined the General Federation in 1890 and the State federation in 1896. Meetings are held semi-monthly, and are in charge of standing committees. Subjects are assigned under science, education, art, literature, history and travel, domestic economy, and current events. The annual meeting occurs the fourth Monday in May. The officers are: Mrs. J. A. Punchard, president; Mrs. E. C. Dorsey, Mrs. S. T. Thompson, vice-presidents; Mrs. E. P. Sherman, recording secretary; Mrs. E. M. Nash, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Una P. Jones, treasurer. The membership is one hundred and ninety-eight.

The Foxborough Monday Club was founded January 17, 1893, with three directors, and Miss A. E. Hitchcock, secretary. The object was historical, literary, and sociologic study. Membership is limited to twenty, and is full. The first year was given to miscellaneous literary study; the second to French history, with a lecture from Mrs. Julia Ward Howe. The next year French history was finished, and art and artists were studied, which subject is continued during 1898. A fine lecture of last year was given by Mrs. A. F. Harris on "Cathedrals of Europe." Much enthusiasm is felt among members over the work. The club joined the State federation in June, 1897. The annual meeting is the first Monday of May, and the officers for 1898 are: President, Mrs. W. E. Horton; first vice-president, Miss S. L. Hitchcock; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. F. H. Walker.

The Friday Club is an important woman's club of Everett. It began with a preliminary meeting held on September 21, 1891. It was decided at that time to form a woman's club, and on October 1st a permanent organization was effected, and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. S. W. Smith; vice-president, Mrs. M. O. Atwood; recording secretary, Mrs. R. E. Harkins; corresponding secretary, Miss M. E. Foster; treasurer, Mrs. E. M. Spofford. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, limiting the term of office to two years, except secretary, and the membership to fifty. The name of "Friday" Club was adopted. Meetings were held the first and third Fridays at the homes of members, until December 4th of the same year when they were transferred to a public hall. In 1892 the club increased its membership to seventy-five, and in 1894 to one hundred, which is its present list.

In May, 1892, the club joined the General Federation, and in June, 1893, the State federation. The object is social and literary improvement. There are three working departments—art and literature, science and economics, and history and ethics. Each department must furnish material for two club meetings by club members; other meetings are provided for by public

lecturers. A social committee looks after the social affairs, of which there are four each year, one of these a "New Year's reception," tendered to the husbands of members. The club has a small library, and a library committee in charge. It has assisted many charitable objects, both in its own city and in Boston. It owns one share in the Club House Corporation, and holds its meetings every other Friday from October 1st to May 21st, inclusive. Its present officers are: President, Mrs. R. E. Harkins; vice-president, Mrs. M. E. Lewis; recording secretary, Mrs. L. W. Carter; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. A. White; treasurer, Mrs. C. W. Smith.



GOLDENROD

Goldenrod Club of Nantucket.—This is a literary and debating club of young girls, organized by Miss Sara Winthrop Smith on the 31st of January, 1895. In 1897 the number had grown to sixty-five, and is still increasing.

The Goldenrod meets fortnightly during the winter, weekly during the summer. Every fourth meeting is devoted to a debate upon a question which may be timely. The intervening meetings are of a literary character, with five-minute papers or speeches upon the topic, and recitations which must have some relation to the author or subject, closing with general discussion.

The meetings are conducted with strictest regard to parliamentary law, the members using every effort to acquit themselves satisfactorily in this way.

There are five permanent officers: corresponding secretary, treasurer, and Presidential Committee, of which Miss Sara Winthrop Smith is chairman. The presiding officer and recording secretary are elected to serve for four successive meetings, none being eligible for reelection. The motive in this is to give each member a training in the work of presiding and taking notes.

The club possesses a good library, has the use of a piano, and a pleasant hall in which to hold its meetings. It has already started a fund for a permanent home with class-rooms. It has had an instructor in physical culture, and this year (1897) has a cooking class, free to its members.

It joined the State federation in 1895, and the General Federation in 1897. Miss Sara Winthrop Smith, who was the organizer of the Woman's Club of Seymour, Conn., is its devoted friend and helper.

Haverhill Woman's Literary Union was founded in 1892. The idea originated with the Papyrus Club, which invited coöperation, and a committee was formed which resulted in the organization of fourteen clubs under the name of the Woman's Literary Union. The constitution stated the object to be, "to bring into communication the several women's literary clubs in this community, for intellectual advancement and mutual benefit."

The first officers were: President, Miss C. A. Newton; vice-president,

Miss I. C. Allen ; secretary, Miss A. M. Pearl ; treasurer, Mrs. D. M. Goodwin. The Executive Board and a delegate chosen from each club formed, and still form, a board of managers, in whom the government of the union was, and still continues to be, vested.

The Woman's Literary Union became a member of the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs in 1894, of the General Federation in 1896. It has sent delegates to all State federation meetings, and to the biennial convention of the General Federation at Louisville in 1896.

The union does no department work, each club choosing its own subject for study, and arranging its own programmes independently of the union, which can only make suggestions. A number of the clubs are studying educational problems at the suggestion of the General Federation.

The annual meeting of the union occurs on the third Saturday in May. During the season of 1896-97 there were additional clubs enrolled, representing a membership of four hundred and thirty-five women.

What the Woman's Literary Union has done for the community may be gathered in the address of the former president, Miss Cora A. Newton, delivered at the "annual tea" of the union last season.

Miss Newton said : " It already encourages the study of literature, art, music, sociology. It brings to the city, for the benefit of its members and the public in general, a goodly number of the best lecturers each year. It has identified itself with the club movements of state and nation." It may be added that it has already influenced public opinion in regard to educational and municipal matters, and to its direct action is due the formation of a much-needed organization, the Merrimac Valley Historical Society.

The present officers are: President, Miss H. O. Nelson ; vice-president, Miss I. C. Allen ; recording secretary, Miss C. D. Cogswell ; corresponding secretary, Mrs. D. M. Goodwin ; treasurer, Miss A. F. Moulton ; auditor, Miss A. M. Wheeler.

There are now thirty-two clubs in the union.

Hockanum is an outlying district of the old town of Hadley, and has a Home Culture Club. The hamlet is a neighborhood rather than a village, inhabited by the families of farmers. It is shut off from Amherst and South Hadley by Mount Holyoke, and the Connecticut flows between it and the town of Holyoke, and Northampton River and meadow separate it by miles from lecture, school, and church privileges ; and many have been the attempts to centralize some sort of social and intellectual life before the Home Culture Club was formed five years ago.

This now holds weekly sessions for eight months in the year, meeting in the school-house, which is the one public building, and the centre for neighborhood gatherings of every sort.

The club is not limited as to membership, and is hospitable to men, as well as to women, though women have the management of it.

Very good work has been done in regard to rural occupations and comparative study of outdoor life. Much more might be done if there was an understanding on the part of men of its possibilities, but the women are modest, besides being very busy housewives. Still they have made a centre which sends out its rays, and will grow in importance.

Heptorean Club, of Somerville, was founded in 1894, and incorporated 1895. It has a limited membership of three hundred and fifty women, with a waiting list of nearly two hundred. Its first and only president is Mrs. A. D. West. The colors are light green and white, and the flower the Easter lily.



MRS. ANNA D. WEST,
President and Founder Heptorean
Club, Somerville, Mass.

The insignia is a shield surrounded by a circle, made of the flowers and leaves of the lily entwining the word "Heptorean." In the upper half of the shield are engraved the seven hills of the city; in the lower left quarter is a ship, and in the lower right quarter a colonial flag. The first ship ever built in America was built on the shores of the Mystic River in Somerville. The first colonial flag ever flung to the breeze was unfurled from the top of Prospect Hill on July 18, 1775. This flag was made by the women who sat up all night and worked after the news came that the colonies had united. But a more important flag-raising took place on this hill on January 1, 1776, when Gen. George Washington himself, in command of the army, hoisted the flag of thirteen stripes, the first flag of the United States. The seven hills are historic heights, as they were used for fortifica-

tions and outlooks in the Revolutionary War, and commanded all the roads leading from Lexington to Charlestown. It is from their historic interest the name "Heptorean" was chosen.

The work of the club is done in departments, such as literature, art, science, civics and music.

The annual dues are five dollars, employed to procure the best lecturers and class leaders. Excellent work is done in all these departments.

The philanthropic work has been principally directed towards assisting Somerville girls who graduate from the high school and show superior ability to the attainment of a college course. The results have been most satisfactory.

The Home Club, of East Boston, was organized March 4, 1875, with Mrs. J. W. Smith, president; Miss F. H. Turner, Mrs. H. G. Jackson, Mrs. A. H. Spaulding, vice-presidents; Miss A. S. Whitehouse, recording secretary; Mrs. M. D. Blackington, corresponding secretary; Mrs. C. D. Jewett, treasurer. Thirty ladies met at the residence of Mrs. J. W. Smith, February 25, 1875, to consider the expediency of forming a ladies' club in East Boston. Mrs. Julia Ward Howe addressed the company, and gave her experience and advice upon the methods of work. Mrs. Smith stated that the idea was to form a club at whose meetings a short paper should be read, which should form the basis for discussion by the ladies in general. A committee of five was appointed to report a plan of organization and nominate officers.

On March 4, 1875, the club was duly organized by the adoption of a constitution and the election of officers. At the meeting of March 18th the club listened to a paper read by Mrs. E. D. Cheney; subject, "Home." The name "Home Club" was adopted on that evening. The first act in the direct interest of the public which the club undertook was in the autumn of 1875.

In September Mrs. M. A. Livermore lectured on the subject, "A Higher Womanhood." This lecture led to an effort for the "equalization of penalty for crime, regardless of sex." The directors appointed a committee to confer with a committee from the New England Club upon the advisability of petitioning the Legislature. Legal advice was obtained, a hearing was granted, and the result was an amendment of the law of the State with regard to "night-walkers," so that thereafter men, as well as women, would be subject to it. A beneficent work the same autumn was the establishment of a sewing school for women and girls. This school afterward broadened into the East Boston Society of Coöperative Visitors. This, in time, in 1879, became the local conference of the Associated Charities. The Home Club grew rapidly. By June, 1875, it had outgrown parlors, and, by the courtesy of the Citizens' Trade Association, occupied a hall. At the end of the first year the club had grown to more than one hundred members. In the spring of 1876 it was deemed expedient to give an entertainment for the purpose of raising money. This was the beginning of the annual Home Club party, which has accomplished two objects: By sale of tickets it has increased its funds and enabled it to perform many charitable acts, such as carrying on the Industrial School, assisting the Day Nursery, and aiding to establish a scholarship for women in the Institute of Technology.

In 1880 the congress for the Advancement of Women met in Boston. The Home Club sought to honor it. A committee from the directors went to the Mayor and the Governor, asking that they show the congress some attention in their official capacity. The committee were cordially received and their

request granted. Governor Long gave the women of the congress a cordial and dignified reception at the State House. Mayor Prince issued invitations to the congress for a harbor excursion to a city institution and personally accompanied the members, speaking words of welcome and extending to them fine hospitality. Thus, for the first time, the State of Massachusetts and the city of Boston gave recognition to an association of women.

In March, 1889, the Home Club sent as a delegate to the twenty-first anniversary of Sorosis, of New York, its president, Mrs. Ada H. Spaulding, who gave a review of the history of the club. At that convention the plan of the General Federation was proposed, and May 12, 1890, the club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, sending then, and in May, 1892, to the biennial meeting in Chicago Mrs. J. W. Smith as delegate. In the autumn of 1892 the Home Club gave a reception to the officers of the federated clubs in Massachusetts, and on May 15, 1893, joined the State federation. The Home Club has been singularly fortunate in choice of presidents. Mrs. Judith W. Smith served the club with devotion for ten years, a woman of broad mind and earnest practical endeavor. She was succeeded by Miss F. H. Turner, a most successful officer, brilliant in thought and speech. Mrs. A. H. Spaulding was the next president, a lady of eloquence and culture. Mrs. S. T. S. Leighton, the present president, is an able successor, of high intellectual attainments, earnest purpose, and honest devotion, a gracious, cultivated woman. The object of the Home Club was and is to be an organized social centre for united thought and action. It has enjoyed twenty-two years of active life, constant growth, and increasing prosperity. A board of directors transacts the business affairs. Club meetings are held on two evenings a month for eight months of the year. The evenings are in charge of five standing committees, annually appointed, whose departments are entirely distinct, viz., social science, art and literature, social meetings, education, general topics. These committees, in rotation, provide the entertainments, which are generally the presentation of a theme by some able speaker, usually followed by a discussion, in which lecturer, members, and guests participate. Friends of members, men and women, are admitted as guests. Frequently there is a social and musical evening, and an occasional "club tea" is served. At the end of the club year the annual meeting is held, the third Monday of May. The membership of the club is limited to two hundred. The membership for 1897 was one hundred and sixty-seven. Officers for 1898 are: Mrs. Sara T. S. Leighton, president; Mrs. C. D. Jewett, Mrs. M. A. Grimes, Mrs. A. R. Cobb, vice-presidents; Mrs. C. P. Cushman, corresponding secretary; Miss E. B. Tomlinson, recording secretary; Miss E. L. Peterson, treasurer; and twelve directors.

The Home Club, of Worcester, was formed by a few enterprising young

women, and was put into action in the spring of 1893. Its object is the mutual improvement of its members in literature, art, science, and the vital interests of the day. Its membership is limited to thirty, and is full. On every Friday afternoon, meetings are held at the homes of its members. The officers for the first year were: Mrs. H. Kendall, president; Miss E. Ballard, secretary and treasurer. The work was a study of Ruskin, from March to June; the history of Spain, from October to February, and a study of women in business, literature, art, and the professions finished the year's work. The second year was given to an all-round study of New England, beginning with Norse discoveries, colonial history, following with New England literature. In October of the year 1894 the Home Club joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs, and has since been represented at the annual meetings. A miscellaneous programme of an interesting character, including essays of Japanese home life and missionary efforts in Japan, and essays upon English government in India, occupied the attention of the members the next year. The fourth club year, beginning October 2, 1896, the members took up short studies in English literature for the first three months, followed by descriptive travels through Italy. At each meeting, quotations from different authors are given in answer to the roll-call. Two or more papers are read, and short current topics are expected of each member, omissions of which are punished by a small fine. Once during each year some woman lecturer is invited to talk before the Home Club—Miss L. T. Ames the first year, Mrs. May Alden Ward the second, and Miss Kate Sanborn the third.

Every fifth week the regular meeting is given up to social intercourse, and a simple lunch is served on these occasions. The calendar for the present year is the most interesting and instructive of any previous work laid before the Home Club. It begins with the early history of Holland, including its customs and characteristics, language and literature. Then follows a study of English and American novelists. Odd weeks are given up to miscellaneous topics.

The present officers of the Home Club are: Mrs. W. Hobbs, president; Miss H. Cushman, vice-president; Mrs. C. W. Boyden, secretary. The annual business meeting is held the first Friday in May, and the club year is from October 1st to June 1st. The club motto is, "Let us be content, in work, to do the thing we can, and not fret because it's little."

Lothrop Club, of Beverly, dates from March 15, 1895. On that day nineteen women met for the purpose of considering the advisability of forming a woman's club. The following October saw the club in working order and over one hundred and fifty women enrolled, with Mrs. Helen E. Kilham as president.

The name "Lothrop" was chosen because of its connection with local history, Capt. Thomas Lothrop having led with distinction "The Flower of Essex" in the French and Indian wars. The club flower is the *tinctoria genesta*, commonly called the "wood-wax" in this region. It is the historic berry from which the Plantagenet family takes its name. It is peculiarly local, and is found in very few sections of this country. It grows, however, in profusion on the hills and in the pastures near Beverly.

The Lothrop Club has committees in art, science, literature, music, education, history and travel, and current events. There are also social and tea committees.

Aside from its regular work, the club has presented to each lowest grade of the primary schools of the city a picture of merit or a plaster cast, sending with them the request that they be interchanged from time to time. In June, 1896, the club gave a "rose tea" for the benefit of the Beverly Hospital. City Hall was secured for the occasion, and the object and the charming decorations brought liberal patronage, and a large sum was realized.

The Lothrop Club joined the national federation early in its existence, and the State federation as soon as permitted by the constitution of that organization.

There are two honorary members, Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods and Mrs. Jessie Eldridge Southwick. There is already a long waiting list. The Lothrop Club, though of recent origin, has made itself a force in the community.

The Lawrence Woman's Club, although not large, is an interesting one, the literary character of its founder and president, Miss E. G. Wetherbee, having set a standard which the club has aimed to represent worthily. As a reading class it met for two years, but becoming interested in club work, it increased its number, and in May, 1892, formed the Lawrence Woman's Club, with Miss Wetherbee as president; Miss M. Packard, secretary; Mrs. G. W. Sargent, treasurer; and five directors.

The club joined the State federation in June, 1893. "The object of the club is to promote general intelligence and culture." It meets the second Tuesday in each month from October to June, and has classes in art, literature, current events, and music, which meet every week. Each class entertains the club one afternoon during the season. At the other meetings well-known speakers address the club. Lectures have been given by Mrs. Mary Lincoln on "Household Economics"; Mr. H. M. Ticknor, on "The Drama." "Gentlemen's night" is in January.

The chairman of the art class is Mrs. N. G. White; of current events, Mrs. J. C. Fisher; music, Mrs. F. S. Herrick. The literature class has a course of lectures by Mrs. Mary Harris, of Lynn, open to any person not a member of the club upon the payment of two dollars for the course.

At the last annual meeting Miss Wetherbee was again chosen president. She is a woman who enjoys the love and confidence of the entire community to a remarkable degree.

The 1884 Club, of Lynn, was organized September 16, 1884, as the Young Woman's Club, with six members, and a limit of fifty, afterwards increased to sixty. The first officers were: Miss C. O. Stone, president; Miss M. Dame, vice-president; Miss H. Newhall, secretary; Miss A. Newhall, treasurer. In 1896 the name was changed by unanimous vote to the 1884 Club, taking its name from the date of formation. The club joined the General Federation February 16, 1892, and the State federation in April, 1895. Its object is the consideration of social, intellectual, and moral questions; and it was the first Lynn club to take up department work. It has now four sections: home, tourists, book reviews, and conversation. The first Thursday of each month is given to home talent, and each department has charge of a meeting in succession. Third Thursdays are devoted to lectures on subjects of interest to all. When there is a fifth Thursday a social meeting is held. The membership list is full, with twelve honorary members. Meetings are held at the homes of members, between whom there is a strong tie of good fellowship. The annual meeting falls on the fourth Thursday of May, and the present Board of Officers is: President, Miss L. L. Putnam; vice-president, Mrs. Ida Brigham; recording secretary, Miss H. E. Newhall; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. L. Boyce; treasurer, Miss F. L. Breed.

The Ladies' Physiological Institute, of Boston, had its origin in a course of lectures upon "The Laws of Life and Health," given by Professor Bronson, in Washingtonian Hall, Bromfield Street, in the spring of 1848. Great interest was awakened in these lectures, and at the close a number of those who had attended organized the Ladies' Physiological Society.

Professor Bronson offered to give the society the manikin and models now in use, on condition that one thousand memberships should be secured. Only about four hundred were obtained; but a fair was held to make up the financial deficit, and on May 2, 1848, Mrs. E. H. Cobb formally received the donation from Professor Bronson in behalf of the society. The first election of officers was held June 14, 1848. Professor Bronson was chosen president, and was reelected in 1849. May 3, 1850, Gov. G. N. Briggs approved the act by which the society was incorporated under the name of the "Ladies' Physiological Institute of Boston and Vicinity," for the purpose of "promoting among women a knowledge of the human system, the laws of life and health, the means of relieving sickness and suffering." The incorporators were: Eunice H. Cobb, Ann M. Kendall, Sarah Goodrich, C. E. U. Kendall, and Rebecca W. Cleverly.

Mrs. Cobb, whose name is first mentioned, was the wife of Rev. Sylvanus

J. Cobb, and the mother of Darius Cobb, painter; Cyrus Cobb, sculptor, and Sylvanus J. Cobb, the well-known writer of fiction. She was one of the most active promoters of the organization and was its first woman president, elected in 1850. During the early years of its history the organization met with much bitter opposition among the religious and conservative classes of society; and, at its first anniversary, only one minister in Boston could be found who would make a prayer for them, Rev. Dr. Jenks.

On the first membership list are the names of Mary V. and Lydia E. Ranall, whose names are still on the roll. They are now on the Board of Directors as Mrs. M. E. R. Jones and Mrs. L. E. Hutchings.

During the entire period of its existence it has had but eleven presidents. The first was the celebrated Prof. C. P. Bronson, who was the only male incumbent of the office. He was succeeded by Mrs. E. H. Cobb, who served in all seven years in divided terms. Mrs. F. A. M. Baldwin, Harriet K. Hunt, M.D., Martha A. Sawin, M.D., Mrs. Lucie Magoun, Mrs. M. E. Haynes, Mrs. W. K. Mayo, Arvilla B. Haynes, M.D., H. B. O'Leary, M.D., and Salome Merritt, M.D., have served for varying periods. Dr. Merritt, the present incumbent, is in the tenth year of her service.

The institute has maintained a course of weekly lectures every year since its organization, on physiology, hygiene, sanitation, nursing emergencies, moral development, and allied subjects. Many of the most noted physicians and ministers of Boston and vicinity have freely given their services as lecturers.

A library was started in 1848 with twenty-seven books—works of popular science, especially physiology, hygiene, and sanitation. Later, works of history, biography, and fiction were added, thus forming a circulating library of general interest, which is free to institute members. In 1889, by the will of Moses Hunt, the institute was the recipient of \$1,000, "the net income only to be used in the purchase of books for the library."

In 1889, at the suggestion of the president, a committee was appointed by the institute to seek to establish friendly and helpful relations with other organizations of women. The Committee of Council and Coöperation was formed by their efforts, its object being "to promote a spirit of unity and helpfulness among the associating societies, and to facilitate active coöperation in measures and departments of work of common interest."

It has been the fixed policy of the institute for the last ten years to have each year a course of from six to twelve lectures on the principles of physiology, so arranged that in three years the whole subject of physiology has been covered with a good degree of thoroughness. These lectures have been given by Salome Merritt, M.D., who has made them thoroughly practical, at the same time inculcating the highest moral and spiritual ideal for human

living. The physiology of reproduction is here taught in a way not found elsewhere outside of medical colleges. The duty of parent-hood is set forth as the highest and holiest sacrament in life, and as the only experience which can give the uttermost fulness and ripeness to human character. These lectures are especially valuable to young women, mothers, and teachers, as they are full of instruction in self-care, and the care and training of children.

The institute is not a member of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, its work being of a specialized character, but it has joined the State federation, and complied with the recommendation of the General Federation in regard to educational work by having a paper and discussion upon the question, "Are Our Educational Methods Physiological?" Many able physicians and public speakers are on the list of lecturers, whose subjects embrace physiology, nursing, emergencies, sanitation, foods, and household chemistry.

The institute supports a room at the Helping Hand Home.

Membership fee is one dollar a year, which entitles the member to attend all its lectures and the free use of its library. Non-members are admitted to the lectures by paying ten cents admission. A number of season tickets are given to worthy persons who are unable to pay the membership fee, but who need the instruction given here.

The present officers are: Salome Merritt, M.D., president; Mrs. D. B. Smith, vice-president; Miss L. F. Babcock, recording secretary, and Mrs. H. E. Emery, treasurer.

The Ladies' Library Association, of Randolph, is one of the oldest women's library organizations in the country. It was formed in 1855, and only antedated by the Ladies' Library Association, of Kalamazoo, Mich., formed in 1853.

The president of the Randolph association was Mrs. C. M. Cordley; vice-president, Mrs. R. Stevens; secretary, Miss M. Alden; treasurer, Mrs. A. L. Cushing; librarian, Mrs. A. Howard. At the time of its formation public libraries were uncommon, and for the purpose of establishing a library the ladies voted that the annual assessments should be used to purchase books. The same rule exists to-day, and annual additions are made to its volumes, which now number 1,370. The society joined the State federation in March, 1895. The membership is limited to seventy-five, and the number at the beginning of the season in 1897 was fifty-six, eight of whom were charter members. The annual meeting is the second Tuesday in January. Regular meetings are held the second and fourth Tuesdays of every month throughout the year. The work is done mainly by members, with an occasional lecture from outside. The present officers are: Mrs. A. L. Chase, president; Mrs. A. Smith, vice-president; Mrs. M. D. Litchfield, secretary; Miss M.

Long, treasurer; Mrs. F. C. Granger, assistant secretary; Miss S. V. Wilde, librarian.

The Lynn Woman's Club is nineteen years old, and has always maintained a high character. It was started by Miss Sarah E. Starr, a cousin of Starr King. After her death Mrs. Emily Shaw Forman was president for several years, until her removal from Lynn. Mrs. Mary E. Burnham was her successor until Mrs. Sarah Smith was chosen to the office. The object of the Lynn Woman's Club is intellectual and literary improvement, rather than any striving for social prominence. The limit of membership is one hundred. In its early days it met in the parlors of the members, and many of the oldest and best known families of Lynn are represented in its membership. The North Shore Club grew out of the Lynn Woman's Club, and so did the 1884 Club of that city.

The Lynn Woman's Club was founded in 1878, and the officers were: Miss Sarah E. Starr, president; Mrs. E. K. Dame, vice-president; Mrs. Emily Shaw Forman, secretary; Mrs. Caroline A. Jones, treasurer. The club voted to join the General Federation May 13, 1890, and in May, 1892, the president, Mrs. Mary E. Burnham, represented the club at the first biennial at Chicago. Two delegates were sent to the conference called by the New England Woman's Club to consider the formation of the State federation, February 9, 1893, and the club acted upon draft of the by-laws April 4, 1893. This is not a department club, but the lectures have embraced every line of organized work. The list of speakers includes most of the names that have appeared before the public during the last fifteen years. The annual meeting is held on the second Tuesday in May, and the present officers are: Mrs. M. L. Sheldon, president; Mrs. M. A. Newhall, Mrs. E. B. Morgan, vice-presidents; Mrs. M. M. Carter, recording secretary; Miss H. M. Sheldon, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. F. Little, treasurer.

The Lady Teachers' Association, of Boston, was formed November 6, 1874, for literary culture. A few years later it was reorganized, and its object defined as the welfare of the schools, and particularly the relief of sick teachers. In this work the association has not confined itself to members alone, but has many times helped suffering and distressed teachers who were far from home. During the winter of 1896 this association became connected with one of the hospitals, so that a member can be sent there at the expense of the club. Meetings are held only four times a year, but the members consider themselves a band of sisters to help one another at any time. The membership is limited to teachers in Boston, and now numbers between sixty and seventy. The annual meeting is the third Monday in September. The association has a full treasury, with excellent prospects for the future, and is founded on the principle of fellowship and mutual help.

Melrose Woman's Club.—In March, 1882, a few women met, and pledged themselves to do all in their power toward the forming and sustaining a woman's literary club. Three weeks after the first meeting the number desiring to participate was increased to seventy-five. Officers were elected, the name chosen, and plans for work outlined. The object stated in the constitution was to "suggest methods for securing to women higher moral, physical, and intellectual conditions, and the improvement of domestic and social relations."

The work was divided under the heads of art and literature, ethics, social economy, and science. The committees representing the different departments supplied the speakers, and the chairman presided on the afternoon of the lecture of her department.

The autumn of 1883 found women earnest and eager, and the work begun in the spring went steadily forward, for the existence of the club was an assured thing. Meetings were held regularly the first and third Thursdays of the month, the subjects presented for discussion had a wide range, and in the list of speakers were the names of scholars, thinkers, and brilliant essayists.

Early in its life, classes were organized for the study in various branches, and members prepared essays for presentation at their meetings. They studied mostly under the leadership of the members, although classes in the natural sciences have been conducted by teachers who were experts, and were therefore charged for by a small fee from each member.

In 1892 the membership had grown to one hundred and fifty. In that year Mr. William Lloyd Garrison, Mr. J. E. Chamberlin, Prof. Westley Emerson, Prof. Daniel Dorchester, Jr., Rabbi Solomon Schindler, Mrs. E. Orr Williams, and Mrs. R. S. Hazeltine all appear as lecturers.

The president for that year was Mrs. S. W. Bradbury. Her successor was Mrs. I. P. Sylvester.

More women appear in 1893 as lecturers. Mrs. S. M. Perkins addressed the club upon "Margaret Fuller, the Thinker, and Mary Lyon, the Worker."

The social life of the club has always been interesting. To the annual supper are invited all the friends who have addressed the club during the year.

An annual address and a fine musical programme, with recitations, are prepared.

At this gathering gentlemen are invited, and always show a high appreciation of the honor conferred. Altogether this is considered one of the most social and intellectual gatherings in the town.

The Melrose Woman's Club was one of the few to report at the first convention of women's clubs held in New York. It joined the General Federation in April, 1890. It works under seven departments, with a present mem-

bership of one hundred and seventy-five women. The president is Mrs. Henry A. Bush.

Middlesex Woman's Club, of Lowell, dates from July, 1894. Its object, as defined by the constitution, was "to form a recognized centre for social and mental culture, to further the education of women for the responsibilities of life, to encourage all movements for the betterment of society, and to foster a generous public spirit in the community."

The president elected was Mrs. Ann B. Richardson; vice-president, Miss Helen A. Whittier; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. E. Russell; recording secretary, Mrs. E. P. Judkins; treasurer, Mrs. M. M. Pollard. To these were added six directors. Seven standing committees represented sociology, education, history, literature, art, science, and hospitality.

In October, 1896, Mrs. Richardson was succeeded by Miss Helen A. Whittier, who, in her annual address, October, 1897, recapitulated the work of the club as follows:

"Believing that it is wise to make haste slowly, we have in the three years of club life devoted ourselves in the department of sociology rather to the study of the conditions of society than to active attempts to improve them. It is coming to be recognized as one of the responsibilities of a woman's life that she should be informed of the fundamental principles upon which the social structure is reared.

"In the sociology department we have had an interesting course of study running through three years, embracing a review of social conditions from the earliest times, a consideration of civic conditions in Europe, and a study of some of our own municipal problems.

"The formation of a committee on civics, composed of forty club members, testifies to the interest which has been aroused in this subject, and is the natural outcome of the work of the sociological department. This committee began its work last spring by printing for club use the city ordinances relating to the cleanliness of streets, the collection of garbage, and the preservation of trees. Subcommittees have been appointed to consider these matters and to coöperate with city officials when necessary.

"Two requests have come to the Executive Council that certain minor reforms may be presented to the club for favorable action. One is from the Massachusetts State Federation of Women's Clubs that the Middlesex Club shall use its influence to stop the use of birds' plumage in millinery. The other request is that members of the club be invited to pledge themselves to wear in stormy weather dress skirts sufficiently short to escape contact with the ground.

"The art section of the Civics Committee presented a petition to the city council for the purchase and preservation of the historically valuable portraits

of the founders of Lowell, which were about to be sold into exile from their proper home. At a hearing given the joint committee of the council on this matter there was a large representation of club-women present. One of the officers of the Middlesex Club presented the case. The effort was successful, and the portraits are now city property.

"In 1896 the club had grown to a membership of three hundred and fifty women, increased during the year by one hundred, with two hundred on the waiting list.

"The department of education has considered the relations of mothers and teachers, and presented papers upon 'Mothers' Classes,' 'Kindergarten Principles,' 'Story-Telling for Children,' and 'Some Unconsidered Essentials.'"

The general subject in literature for the year has been "The Rise and Development of the Novel," with a study of "The Theory of the Novel" and "Some Representative Novelists." In science there have been lectures by specialists, and a "field day" of the science class.

The department of history has studied ancient Rome from its mythical founding to the decline and fall of the empire. In the department of art, under the general subject of English mediæval architecture, Miss Whittier has given six lectures on successive English styles, illustrated by lantern-slides. Under the auspices of the Committee on Hospitality, Washington's birthday was celebrated, assisted by the Molly Varnan Chapter of the Daughters of the Revolution. Three club "teas" are arranged by this committee during the year.

A parliamentary section has been added, and a course of ten lessons in parliamentary law given by Mrs. H. R. Shattuck, of Malden.

As one result of its studies, the department of sociology requested the Executive Council to appoint from the club a committee on civics to confer with the city officials in order to see in what manner the Middlesex Woman's Club can coöperate with them towards insuring clean streets, the removal of the waste and garbage by scientific and economic methods, and the preservation of trees. A committee of forty was appointed on February 15th, and several subcommittees, who entered upon their respective duties. The Subcommittee on Printing has published a booklet for distribution, containing extracts from the city ordinances pertaining to the above matters. The present officers are: President, Miss Whittier; recording secretary, Mrs. E. P. Judkins.

The general officers are elected, or reëlected, at the annual meeting, three consecutive years being the limit for president. The directors are elected for one, two, and three years respectively.

The Board of Officers appoint the chairmen of standing committees, and decide upon the admission of members.

The membership fee is five dollars, and the annual dues five dollars. The

regular meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of the month, beginning the first Monday in October and ending in May.

The Medford Woman's Club was organized December 1, 1892, having for its object "to realize our human relations to each other, and to come into sympathetic union through individual and coöperative work with schools and municipal government." Its divisions cover science, domestic economy, ethics, education, political economy, the arts, and social entertainments. The first officers were: President, Mrs. R. Gibson; vice-president, Mrs. C. Perry; secretary, Mrs. Crockett; treasurer, Mrs. M. Randall. The club joined the State federation in 1894, and the General Federation in 1897. It is, as its name implies, for Medford women, without any restriction whatever. Any Medford woman may join the club by paying the annual fee of two dollars and signing her name in the membership book. She must be vouched for in writing by two club members, but there is no balloting upon her, either at the club meetings or in the Executive Committee, and consequently no black-balling. The members do all their own work, meeting every other Tuesday afternoon, beginning the first Tuesday in October and ending with the first Tuesday in May. The programme for each regular meeting is furnished by members of the different standing committees.

Two facts constitute their chief strength, that membership is free to all Medford women and that they do the work themselves. In order to accomplish the latter systematically, the constitution provides that there shall be seven standing committees—on education, arts, science, political economy, ethics, domestic economy, and entertainments. These committees are presided over by chairmen appointed yearly by the Executive Committee, who also have charge of all matters relating to the respective departments. Each chairman arranges at least two programmes every year for the regular meetings, which are given by members of her committee.

The club relies upon these committees for all the papers given at the regular meetings, and while membership in them is not compulsory, it is quite necessary, for a chief object, like that of Sorosis, is to develop the members and afford latent talent sympathetic opportunity. The club numbers two hundred and fifty women, with the membership increasing. One-third of these have joined the various standing committees, and are thus actively at work. The Ethics Committee has been studying the systems of philosophy and different religions of the world with great profit. All sects and ages have been engaged in this study. The Entertainment Committee has given much pleasure through private theatricals, musicales, dramatic readings, and the like, all furnished by members. There have been numerous extra occasions in addition to the regular meetings. Some of these have been given by members of the various committees,

and some addressed by trained speakers, such as Mr. Garrison, Mrs. Tobey, Swami Vivekananda, Mrs. Diaz, Professor Davidson, and others. Among the numerous subjects treated by the club may be mentioned papers on Rousseau's "Emile," Froebel's "Theory of Symbols and Kindergarten Methods," "Pestalozzi," "University Extension," "Coeducation," "Manual Training in the Public Schools," "Ibsen and Ibsenism," "Impressions in Art and Music," "The Renaissance," Drummond's "Ascent of Man," "Cryptogamous Plants," "The Rights of the Unborn," and "The Armenian Problem." Discussion of subjects grows more free and spontaneous each year. The present officers are: President, Mrs. R. Gibson; vice-president, Mrs. E. Silas; recording secretary, Mrs. C. Langrel; corresponding secretary, Miss C. Turner; treasurer, Miss A. Ayres; custodian, Mrs. A. Hersey.

The Medfield Woman's Club was organized January 16, 1894. The first officers were: Mrs. E. J. Savage, president; Mrs. K. J. Lovett and Mrs. E. J. Fitts, vice-presidents; Miss L. M. Johnson, secretary. The club began as a group in a very modest way, meeting in parlors and reading aloud, the object being to bring women together for mutual improvement. It has since developed into a club of fifty members with a constitution and by-laws, meets in a hall, and has joined the State federation. Its influence and work are excellent for the town.

The plan of the club has been that of doing its own work mostly, which is more beneficial than having it done for them. The present Board of Officers is: Miss R. S. Allen, president; E. F. Rhodes and A. E. Hewins, vice-presidents; Miss L. M. Johnson and Mrs. Ellen C. Stone, secretaries; Mrs. Alice Bishop, treasurer. The annual meeting is the first Friday in May.

Nantucket Sorosis was started as a branch of the New York club of that name, but this being found impracticable, soon developed an independent life of its own. It was started in August, 1872, and is therefore twenty-six years old. The first officers were: Elizabeth Starbuck, president; Mary J. Baxter, (deceased) and Harriet M. Robinson, vice-presidents; Anna Gardner, secretary; Phebe A. West, treasurer; Catherine Starbuck, Lucy Starbuck, Elizabeth C. Crosby, Sarah M. Cathcart, directors. The present object and line of work are purely literary, and the club forms an important part of the intellectual life of the island. Membership is limited to thirty, and one blackball excludes. Meetings are held twice a month, with an annual gathering the first Tuesday in May. The club members do all the work, and are exceedingly harmonious. The list of subjects discussed has included ethics of domestic service, literature of to-day, hobbies of distinguished people, dialect fiction, the art of conversation, the military spirit, Nathaniel Hawthorne, immigration, Japan, rights of children and dumb animals, modern hygiene, city life, characteristics of society, highways of the sea, "Should women study politics?"

The club has devoted much time to the poets, English and American, to Shakespearean dramas and the Elizabethan period of English literature. Time seems to exist in Nantucket, for it is provided that the essays shall not exceed one hour, or the reading thirty minutes. The present list of officers for Nantucket Sorosis is: Mrs. Catherine Starbuck, president; Mrs. Elizabeth Starbuck, Mrs. Hannah B. Sharp, vice-presidents; Miss Rebecca A. Gardner, recording secretary; Miss Anna Gardner, corresponding secretary; Miss Phebe



A BIT OF OLD NANTUCKET

C. Pitman, treasurer; Mrs. Helen B. Worth, Mrs. Elizabeth C. Crosby, Mrs. C. Parker Hills, Mrs. Elizabeth W. Webb, directors.

New England Woman's Press Association.—Responding to a call issued by Mrs. Marion A. McBride, six newspaper women of Boston met on Tuesday, November 17, 1885, with Mrs. Sallie Joy White, in her room at the *Boston Herald* office, to form an organization of the newspaper women of New England.

The six original members present at this meeting were, besides Mrs. McBride and Mrs. White, Miss Helen M. Winslow, Miss Grace W. Soper, Mrs. Cora Stuart Wheeler, and Miss Estelle M. Hatch (Jean Kincaid). The formal organization of the New England Woman's Press Association was then and there effected, with Mrs. Sallie Joy White as president and Miss

Estelle M. Hatch (now Mrs. E. M. H. Merrill) as secretary. Miss Helen M. Winslow was soon after made the club treasurer.

The first growth of the association is almost entirely due to the indefatigable zeal and untiring energy of the secretary, who corresponded with, or saw personally, every newspaper woman of New England of whom she could hear. A second meeting was called at her rooms on Bowdoin Street, December 8, 1886, with a score of members present; and a constitution and by-laws were adopted January 18, 1887.

Several meetings were held with the secretary, and for the next year or so the club met at the *Woman's Journal* parlors, but owing to rapidly increasing numbers larger quarters had to be found, and for seven or eight years past the Parker House has been the regular home of the New England Woman's Press Association. The club was finally incorporated in 1888 with nearly one hundred members.

The first large reception was given by the club on the evening of June 19, 1887, in honor of Mrs. Croly ("Jennie June"). The second occurred the following January, when the members of the Boston Press Club and other newspaper men were invited.

Mrs. White was reelected president five years, and Mrs. E. M. H. Merrill succeeded her for three years. It was then thought best to limit the term of office to two years. Miss Helen M. Winslow was the third president, and during her administration the club had a most brilliant existence. She was succeeded by Mrs. May Alden Ward, a well-known speaker and writer.

The objects of the association are to promote acquaintance and good-fellowship among newspaper women, and to forward by concerted action through the press such good objects on social, philanthropic, and reformatory lines as may from time to time present themselves. The membership is unlimited, and any woman resident in New England who is connected as a professional writer, or manager, with any reputable newspaper or magazine is eligible.

Regular meetings are held on the first and third Wednesdays of every month, except during July, August, and September, the former being a business meeting and the latter for literary exercises and tea. At these meetings many distinguished women have been present as guests, several of whom have read papers. Among the latter are Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, Miss Kate Sanborn, Mrs. Croly, Mrs. Margaret Deland, Mrs. Clara Erskine Clement Waters, Mrs. Eliza Archard Connor, Mrs. A. M. Palmer, Mrs. Anna Eichberg King, Mrs. Rose Hawthorne Lathorp, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mme. Magnusson, Mrs. Edmund Noble, (a Russian lady), and Mme. Hanna Korany, of Syria. Essays have been furnished, also, from time to time by the members themselves on topics pertinent to journalism in

every phase, beginning with one by Mrs. Allie E. Whitaker in April, 1888, and followed at intervals by Mrs. Isabel C. Barrows, Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods, Mrs. Mary E. Blake, Mrs. Sallie Joy White, Mrs. E. M. H. Merrill, Mrs. Elisabeth M. Gosse, Mrs. Barbara N. Galpin, Mrs. Emma Sheridan-Frye, Mrs. Evelyn Greenleaf Sutherland, Mrs. Mary Alice Worswick, Mrs. Emily Selinger, Mrs. Lucy Stone, Mrs. Cora Stuart Wheeler, Mrs. May Alden Ward, Miss Helen M. Winslow, and others.

The New England Woman's Press Association has given receptions to many distinguished women. Among the most important was a breakfast to Miss Amelia B. Edwards, to which about four hundred members and invited guests sat down. The menus were printed upon satin, and contained a photographic portrait of Miss Edwards. This was upon November 29, 1889.

Notable occasions were those in honor of Mrs. Sallie Joy White's "twenty-first anniversary" in daily journalism: the breakfast for Mr. Henry Neville, of London; and receptions for Mme. Modjeska, Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett, Miss Mary E. Wilkins, Mrs. General Custer, Mrs. Julia Marlowe-Taber, Mr. James Whitcomb Riley, Mrs. Harriet Prescott Spofford, Mr. Beerbohm Tree, and the officers of State and General Federations of Women's Clubs.

At the "gentlemen's nights" such representative men as Prof. Louis C. Elson, Mr. William Fraser, art editor of the *Century*; Mr. James Bliss Townsend, of the *New York Commercial Advertiser*; and ex-Governor Russell and Governor Greenhalge, of Massachusetts, have been the speakers.

A delightful series of "afternoons with authors" was given in the fall of 1891, at which Mr. Riddle, Mr. Ticknor, and Mrs. Erving Winslow appeared; and an "author's reading" at the Hollis Street Theatre in February, 1892, netted over \$1,000 for "the benefit of the suffering poor." Most of this money was bestowed on several different charities of the city, but from a small balance sprang what is known as the "Journalist Fund," which gives aid to distressed newspaper people who are genuinely worthy and in need, whether in or out of the association.

In March, 1892, the Press Association combined with the Abbot Academy Club and gave the largest reception to other women's clubs ever given in Massachusetts. Officers of the State federation and all women's clubs were invited, and some four hundred representative women were gathered at the Parker House. Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, president of the General Federation; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, president of the Massachusetts Federation; Mrs. L. A. W. Fowler, president of the Abbot Academy Club, and Miss Helen Winslow, president of the New England Woman's Press Association, stood in line and received the guests for over three hours. During half this time Governor Greenhalge stood in line also, thus affording all the federated club-women a chance to grasp the hand of the governor.

The club has been of great benefit to its members, not only in keeping alive the spirit of modern progress and thought, but in bringing into closer social relations its members, who, in the main, lead more than commonly busy lives. The ruling idea from the start has been to unite in a common bond of sympathy and acquaintanceship that rapidly growing class of workers whose labor is chiefly confined to periodical publications.

The Newton Centre Woman's Club was organized in March, 1887. It was an outgrowth of a committee of ladies who had worked together for a soldiers' fair, held in Newton, February 22d, of that year. This committee worked so harmoniously and successfully that the Newton Centre table at the fair was called the "banner table," the proceeds being larger than at any other.

At the closing meeting of this committee, after the fair, the proposition was made by Mrs. Clara M. Grout that they remain a permanent organization in the form of an educational club.

This was voted upon and accepted. The constitution and by-laws were drawn up by Mrs. Grout, and the name chosen by the members was "The Ladies' Union." Its aims were educational, charitable, and social.

The Ladies' Union proved a great success, and in two years its membership was doubled and the name changed to "The Newton Centre Woman's Club." Since its formation the club has given to various charitable objects \$4,817.

For the personal improvement of its members more than fifty lectures have been delivered, including a wide range of topics considered by able speakers.

The work of the club consists largely of public lectures and classes in music, art, literature, and the like.

The president is Mrs. R. R. Bishop. In 1897 it published a year-book for the first time; had a "gentlemen's" night and a members' "tea" at the closing of the classes.

In 1896-97 it added a class in current events, and this, together with the social functions, made a new departure from the previous course of the club, which it was felt had been almost too rigidly educational and philanthropic.

The Newtonville Woman's Guild was founded in March, 1884, with Miss A. A. Smead, president; Mrs. J. W. Dickinson, vice-president; Miss M. C. Worcester, secretary; Mrs. C. M. Blanchard, treasurer; Mrs. W. S. Slocum, auditor.



MRS. CLARA M. GROUT,
Founder Newton Centre Woman's Club,
Mass.



MRS. R. R. BISHOP,
President Newton Centre Woman's
Club, Mass.

The one person to whom more than all others the guild owes its origin was Mrs. J. W. Dickinson, who lived to see her carefully considered plan an established success. The Newtonville Woman's Guild has been a member of both General and State Federations.

The work is carried on by committees: educational, industrial, and others. The first provides for the fortnightly meetings. The Industrial Committee in various ways, by fairs, subscriptions, and entertainments, adds to the guild's income. The Hospital Committee visits Newton Hospital, to which the guild annually contributes \$300 for a free bed. The Charitable Committee keeps in touch with associated charities of Newton, and contributes to such objects as the "Country Week." The Flower Committee helps the Boston Flower Mission. The Needlework Guild Committee

is a branch of the Needlework Guild of America. The Social Committee has charge of receptions, and tries to make members acquainted with each other.

Membership is limited to two hundred and twenty-five. At present it is two hundred. The entrance fee is \$1; annual dues, \$2. The president for nine years has been Mrs. G. R. Hill, who has been so entirely satisfactory that she might have been elected indefinitely if she would have allowed it. The new president, Mrs. Carter, has eminent qualification for the position, and under her management the guild may strike out in some new directions. Perhaps the best excuse for being that the guild can claim is that of bringing into friendly and coöperative relations women of various churches, "sets," and neighborhoods, who otherwise would never have known each other. The present officers are: President, Mrs. H. H. Carter; ten vice-presidents; recording secretary, Mrs. John Martin; corresponding secretary, Miss M. W. Hackett; federation secretary, Mrs. G. T. Hill; treasurer, Mrs. G. P. Cooke; auditor, Mrs. W. H. Allen.

The Newton Federation of Women's Clubs was founded May 17, 1895. It consists of ten clubs, united to work coöperatively, viz.: Social Science Club, Newton; West Newton Educational Club, Newtonville Woman's Guild, Auburndale Review Club, Newton Highlands Monday Club, Newton Highlands Shakespeare Club, West End Literary Club, Newton Centre Woman's Club. To these, two have been added.

The object is to secure more thorough acquaintance, and, in case of need, united action among the women's clubs of Newton.

The work is carried on through the following committees: Education, chairman, Mrs. George W. Blodgett; municipal, Mrs. Dr. M. Faunce; city improvement, Miss E. M. Wilder; household economics, Mrs. G. E. Wales; constitution, Mrs. Henry H. Carter.

The membership is eleven hundred, and unlimited. The following are the officers: President, Mrs. F. W. Peloubet; vice-presidents, Miss G. G. Phipps, Mrs. George T. Hill, Mrs. Dr. S. N. Sylvester; recording secretary, Mrs. W. C. Boyden; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. Hastings; treasurer, Mrs. C. Holmes; auditor, Mrs. G. M. Fiske.

The Newburyport Woman's Club was formed October 1, 1896, with Mrs. J. A. Hodgdon, president; Miss H. E. Lunt, Miss L. A. Stone, Miss M. T. Spalding, vice-presidents; Miss L. D. Toppan, secretary; Miss F. E. Pettingell, assistant secretary; Miss H. Hamilton, treasurer.

The objects are "to promote intellectual improvement by bringing before its members the best thought of the time." In furtherance of this, they employ such lecturers as John Fiske, John Burroughs, Agnes Repplier, and Alice Freeman Palmer. John Graham Brooks opened the season of 1898 with a lecture, and a class in literature is led by Miss Ethel Parton (daughter of James Parton), and there are also classes in travel, botany, and hygiene.

At the first annual meeting, the first Wednesday in May, 1897, all the officers were reelected. The club has joined the General Federation, but is not in the State federation. Membership is limited to two hundred, and there is a steadily increasing interest.

New Hampshire's Daughters first gathered together to form themselves into a club May 15, 1894, when the following officers were elected: Miss Kate Sanborn, president; Mrs. Julia K. Dyer, Mrs. Celia Thaxter, Miss Edna Dean Proctor, vice-presidents; Mrs. Harriet T. Folsom, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Nellie I. Daggett, recording secretary; Mrs. Mary C. Blackmore, treasurer; Mrs. Martha Dana Shepard, Mrs. Phebe Jenks, Mrs. H. H. A. Beach, Mrs. Laura A. W. Fowler, Mrs. Benjamin Tenney, Mrs. S. C. Perkins, directors. The club started off with fifty members.

Meetings are held on the third Saturdays of each month from October to May, with the exception of April. These meetings are both social and literary. The programmes are generally contributed by the members. During 1896-97 they were arranged by the members born in the same county in New Hampshire, each county taking one meeting. Papers on the different towns have been given, also recitations and music. The club has given several receptions, one each year to its friends of the opposite sex. An important

meeting was called "Dartmouth day" from the fact that President Tucker attended and made an address. Many distinguished Dartmouth graduates accepted invitations. Dr. Otis Marion presented a beautiful silk flag, a gift from the Sons of New Hampshire. A large reception was given to officers of federated clubs, April 30, 1897, and over five hundred attended. The club has had several "outings" at the home of the first president, Miss Sanborn, and made an excursion to the White Mountains in September, 1896. Through a committee, they collected and sent nearly fifty books, written by New Hampshire women, to the Atlanta Exposition. Afterward the books were divided between the new State Library at Concord, N. H., and the library in Craigie House at Atlanta.

The club became incorporated May 11, 1897. In charitable work it gave \$553.70 to the Charity Club Hospital, this being the proceeds from the table at the Noah's Ark entertainment for the benefit of the hospital. The membership has now reached five hundred and thirty-six, and is unlimited.

New Hampshire's Daughters were admitted to the State federation in December, 1895, and to the General Federation in March, 1897. Their object is to promote loyalty to the mother State, "to cultivate a knowledge of her interests and seek to further them, and to make the meetings opportunities for her daughters to know each other pleasantly and socially." The annual meeting is the third Saturday in May; and following is the list of officers for 1898: Mrs. J. K. Dyer, president; Mrs. M. D. Shepard, Mrs. I. Farr Miller, Mrs. N. I. Daggett, vice-presidents; Mrs. J. B. Wadleigh, recording secretary; Mrs. A. M. Godding, corresponding secretary; Mrs. L. F. Mead, treasurer; Mrs. H. H. Piper, auditor.

The Nineteenth Century Club, of Northampton, was organized in 1894, with Mrs. Dana Pearson as president; Mrs. P. P. Nichols, vice-president, and Mrs. Charles B. Kingsley, secretary and treasurer. An executive committee consists always of the three officers, and two members chosen by the president. The club was admitted to the General Federation in 1895, and the State federation in 1897.

Its object is "mutual improvement and conscientious study." The work of the three years has been mainly given to American history, literature, and art, including a comparative view of French forms of national and local government, and those of the United States.

The "Beginnings of English Literature," preparatory to a thorough study of the English language and literature, is the present basis of work.

Annual meetings are held on the fourth Monday in March. Membership is limited to twenty-five.

The present officers are: Mrs. C. B. Kingsley, president; Mrs. W. H. Clapp, vice-president; Mrs. R. E. Edwards, secretary and treasurer.



North Shore Club was incorporated in 1891, eleven ladies of Lynn associating themselves together for the purpose of forming a woman's club which should be progressive in its methods and broad in its principles of action.

These ladies were: Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, E. R. Alley, A. L. Johnson, Ida M. Johnson, H. K. Clough, J. T. Potter, E. G. Pinkham, A. A. Southerland, L. H. Kelley, M. D. Breed, and A. M. Van Buren.

The membership is limited to two hundred. The meetings are held in a fine hall in the gentlemen's Oxford Club house. This hall has a banquet room adjoining, which is thrown open and used at the club receptions.

"The true, strong, and sound mind is the mind that can embrace equally great things and small."

occupies that position.

Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, vice-president of the General Federation, was the first president, Mrs. Lucy H. Kelley the second, and Mrs. C. C. Porter now

Rotation in office was secured by the by-laws, and it was also the aim of its founders to encourage and stimulate members to take part in discussions and on the "home days." This phase of the work has been eminently successful. A large proportion of the club members now take part in discussion and preparation.

The work of the club is largely literary, subjects bearing upon all the leading questions of the day entering into its programme for each year.

In addition to this, the club has engaged in much philanthropic work.



NORTH SHORE CLUB ROOM, MASS.



MRS. ALICE IVES BREED,

Vice-President of the General Federation and Founder
and First President of the North Shore Club

In 1892 there was no hospital for contagious diseases in the city of Lynn. The club appreciating the need of such an institution, started public sentiment in this direction, and by a series of readings, raised a sum of money which became the nucleus for further action.

The city took up the matter, and a hospital was built according to the latest sanitary methods. The money raised by the women of the North Shore Club was used for furnishing the hospital.

The North Shore Club started a movement in Lynn, during a winter of great privation and stress, to raise a fund for the unemployed,

and started it with a contribution of \$400. It contributed an equally large sum to aid in purchasing a site for a new public library.

The motto of the North Shore Club is Dr. Johnson's wise saying: "The true, strong, and sound mind is the mind that can embrace equally great things and small."

The club color is yellow, and the flower the goldenrod.

Mrs. Breed considers the North Shore Club, which she was instrumental in founding and of which she was the first presiding officer, as her special club. She was at one time the youngest member of the Lynn Woman's Club, and was one of its earliest vice-presidents. She was the first president of the Ladies' Auxiliary to the Young Men's Christian Association; she was for three years chairman of the Lynn Branch of the Massachusetts Emergency Association; she was a member of the Committee on Social and Moral Reform at the World's Congress in 1893; she has just withdrawn from office in the Woman's Club House Association, where she represented the Browning Club, of Boston, and she holds office as president in the Massachusetts Society of the Sons and Daughters of Illinois.

Mrs. Breed has been a great traveller. She has visited every part of the United States, including Alaska; has been to Canada, has seen every country in Europe but Portugal, has journeyed in Egypt, and is now in China, returning in time to be in attendance at the Denver biennial meetings.

Mrs. Breed was born in Pavilion, Ill., in January, 1853. It is a little curious that while the president of the General Federation is a New Eng-



NORUMBEGA WOMAN'S CLUB, CHARLESTOWN, MASS.

MRS. MAY KNIGHT SOUTHWELL, Founder and First President

MISS LILLIAN BROWN, Secretary

MRS. ANNETTE R. ROBBINS, President

land woman living in Illinois, the vice-president is an Illinois woman living in New England.

Norumbega Woman's Club, of Charlestown, was founded November, 1893, by the meeting of a dozen interested women, under the auspices of Mrs. May Knight Southwell, who became the first president. It was incorporated April, 1894, and admitted to the General Federation in the same year.

Its object, as stated, "is to stimulate mental power, encourage literary pursuits, and promote the general culture of its members."

"Utilie dulcie." Its work, which at first consisted of contributed papers, musicales, and social occasions, is now divided into five departments: literature, philanthropy, art, music, and club classes.

The membership has become upwards of one hundred ; and the government is in the hands of an executive board, consisting of the general officers and seven directors, all elected annually.

The president appoints the chairmen of the departments, who are responsible for the department programmes.

The social side of the club has been well represented by club teas and receptions, several of them given in honor of distinguished men and women. Among those so distinguished have been Miss Kate Sanborn, Mrs. May Alden Ward, Mrs. Mary Dana Hicks, Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill, and the Honorable F. T. Greenhalge, then Governor of Massachusetts.

But the most notable social event was the christening celebrated at Memorial Hall, January, 1894, by a reception to Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Mrs. Mary A. Livermore.

The platform was a conservatory of potted foliage plants and palms. Laurel wreaths were placed over the chairs occupied by the guests of honor, and refreshments were served from tables decorated with violet and white flowers and silver candelabra. Three hundred and fifty members and guests were served by a contingent of young ladies gowned in white, pink, and violet.

The christening ceremony was very interesting, even imposing. The founder and president, Mrs. Southwell, spoke the words of welcome ; and continued that " as a spiritual life imparts a spiritual expression to a face, so a searching after the good will beautify a club, and enrich its individual lives." Short addresses were made by Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Livermore, Mrs. Diaz, Mrs. Dyer, Mrs. Merritt, Mrs. Merrill, Mrs. S. B. Crane, Mrs. L. A. W. Fowler, Mrs. Lillian W. Breed, and others.

The limit of membership in the Norumbega is three hundred. There is a club paper, the *Norumbega*, edited by the first president, Mrs. Southwell. The regular meetings are the first and third Saturdays in the month. The president (1897) is Mrs. A. R. Robbins, who was the first treasurer. The secretary is Miss Lillian Brown, an active and representative member.

The Monday Club, of Southbridge, was formed January 4, 1889, for " intellectual and social improvement." Its work is on the lines of literature, history, and art. It is limited to twenty-one members, and meets every Monday from October to May. Members write original papers and discuss current events. They are very united, and begin their tenth season with enthusiasm. They have enjoyed a course of lectures by the best talent nearly every winter in connection with the special work. The club belongs to the State federation, and its officers are : Mrs. Calvin D. Page, president ; Miss Mary Merritt, recording secretary ; Mrs. Frank C. Litchfield, corresponding secretary.

The Millbury Woman's Club was formed in October, 1895, with Mrs.

Alice P. Eastman president and Miss Anna L. Morse secretary. It was organized by a few ladies who felt the necessity of keeping in touch with the questions of the day and desired a broader mental growth. Mrs. Annie K. Marble, of the Worcester Woman's Club, lent her assistance, and the Millbury Club was the result. The club joined the General Federation in 1895, and was admitted to the State federation in 1897. The membership is forty-five, with a limit of fifty. The work is along the lines of history, literature, education, art, and science, with two social meetings in the year. Monthly meetings are held from October through April, and the forecast for the year included: For October, "Books and Their Writers"; November, "Greece, Ancient and Modern"; December, "The Flora of Worcester County"; January, a five o'clock tea; February, a lecture on "Children's Literature"; March, "Music" was the subject; April, "Work among Seamen and Sailors"; May, the "gentlemen's night"; June, third Friday, the annual meeting, when officers are elected. The present officers are: Miss A. L. Pierce, president; Mrs. F. W. Lincoln, vice-president; Miss L. J. Atwood, secretary; Mrs. J. A. Crane, treasurer.

The Master's Assistants' Club is a Boston teachers' club which was formed January 1, 1892, with the following officers: Miss F. H. Turner, president; Miss M. F. Wright, vice-president; Mrs. E. F. Inman, secretary and treasurer. The early records show that from eleven to fifteen members attended the first year's meetings, while during 1897 the attendance ranged from thirty to forty. The club has shown great friendliness toward other clubs, assisting at fairs and donating books for libraries or money for charitable purposes. It has donated money to the Teachers' Mutual Benefit Association, besides doing much in support of the great bazaar of December, 1892, and the historical pageant in May, 1897. It has kept up relations with other clubs by sending delegates to conventions, and joined the General Federation in September, 1895. The objects of the meetings are both social and educational. At regular meetings lectures are given by prominent educators, also discussions with relation to the best interests of the schools and papers on the history of education. During the past year some of the lecturers have been: Mr. Myron T. Pritchard, on "One Way to Study a Poem"; Mr. F. O. Stanley, on "X-Rays"; Mrs. C. G. Ames, on "Opportunities of the Teacher"; Mr. Walter S. Parker, on "Schools of Indianapolis." Membership is limited to fifty, and is full. Only teachers of first classes in grammar schools are eligible to membership. During the coming year every other meeting will be social in character, and at the literary meetings people of prominence on educational matters will speak, and also members who have made themselves specialists in certain studies. The present officers are: Miss A. M. Penniman, president; Miss E. G. Melcher, vice-president; Miss A. E. Farrington, secretary and

treasurer; Miss E. M. Evert, corresponding secretary; Miss Lucy W. Eaton, Miss Esther H. Fletcher, Miss Mary C. Mellyn, Miss Mary F. Thompson, Miss Ella C. Jordan, directors.

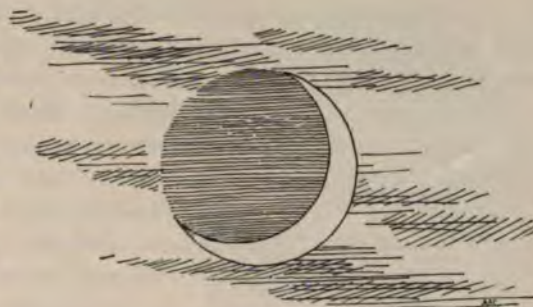
The Nahant Woman's Club was founded March 19, 1895, with the following list of officers: Mrs. S. A. Wilson, president; Mrs. P. T. Johnson, vice-president; Mrs. L. C. Johnson, secretary; Miss M. Johnson, treasurer. The record has been one of gradual increase in membership and interest. The club joined the General Federation in October, 1895, and the State federation in April, 1896. The membership numbers forty-five. The object is to promote social intercourse in the town and the intellectual improvement of women. Nahant is so well managed as a town, its affairs are so well looked after, that there seems nothing for women to do in the way of "improvement." But the members are extremely interested in their club and look forward to continued prosperity. The present officers are: Mrs. S. A. Wilson, president; Mrs. E. O. Whitney, vice-president; Mrs. L. C. Johnson, secretary; Miss N. Palmer, treasurer.

The Natick Woman's Club was organized October 7, 1895. The first officers were: Mrs. A. F. Goodnow, president; Mrs. I. I. Wells, Mrs. V. A. Wisch, vice-presidents; Mrs. A. B. Fiske, recording secretary; Miss E. R. Woodman, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. I. Fiske, treasurer; Mrs. M. L. Edwards, auditor, and eight directors. The club began with fifty-two charter members. The list rapidly increased until it reached one hundred and seventy. It united with the General Federation in the winter of 1896, and the State federation in the same year. The object of the club is intellectual, educational, and social improvement. The work has been carried on by lectures on various subjects, and papers by club members on such subjects as child study, local history, and current events. Classes have been formed in local history and current events, and last year a "mothers' class," open to all the mothers in the town, was formed and well attended. A Committee on Town Improvement was appointed, and through it the club has placed waste barrels on the streets, and hopes to do more in the future.

The social events are a "gentlemen's night" and occasional "teas." The membership has now grown to two hundred. The limit is two hundred and fifty. The list of officers is: Mrs. A. F. Goodnow, president; Mrs. S. A. Cooney, Mrs. R. Cook, vice-presidents; Mrs. A. B. Fiske, recording secretary; Miss H. E. Boardman, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. I. Fiske, treasurer; Mrs. A. J. Perry, auditor.

Old and New of Malden.—This club, which was among the first to follow the lead of Sorosis and the New England Woman's Club, was founded in Malden, Mass., in October, 1878. Its projector, Mrs. Harriette R. Shattuck, who had just returned from the yearly meeting of the Association for the

Advancement of Women, filled with enthusiasm and with the idea that the time was ripe for women to band themselves together for literary and educational purposes, invited a small number of personal friends to meet at her home and consider the feasibility of forming a woman's club. Twelve ladies responded to the call, a constitution was drawn up and soon adopted, and a list of officers was chosen. The primary object of such a club was declared to be, "to secure to all women better moral, mental, physical, and social conditions, with a more thorough understanding of the questions of the day and a confidence to utter their own thoughts." The name, Old and New, suggested by Mrs. Rosella F. Baxter, was adopted as best expressing the woman's club idea: an aggregation of old and young, who would meet together to consider a wide range of subjects, both ancient and modern. The emblem—the old and new moon, at the time of the new moon, suggested by Miss E. O. Robinson, afterwards Mrs. Abbott—was chosen as the one best fitted to represent the name and object of the club. The motto for many years was that of the Lend-a-Hand Club:



OLD AND NEW, MALDEN, MASS.



MRS. HARRIETTE R. SHATTUCK,
 Founder of Old and New, Malden, Mass;
 also Founder Political Study
 Club, Boston, Mass.

"Look up and not down,
 Look out and not in,
 Look forward and not back, and
 Lend a hand."

The present motto is: "High aims, pure ideals, unity of purpose." The officers were a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, and three directors; with three department committees to arrange the conduct of the literary meetings—art and literature, science and economics, ethics and history. The constitution was soon amended. The directors' board was abolished, so that all business thereafter done in executive session be by the whole club, and rotation in office was inaugurated. All meetings were conducted by the rules of parliamentary law, Warrington's manual being the authority.

The membership was limited to fifty, but has been increased until the club now numbers one hundred and fifty, with a waiting list. The annual fee was fifty cents, but is now \$2, with an initiation fee of \$5.

Soon after the club was formed a small safe was bought to receive contributions from members towards providing for their use a central place of meeting, a sum which has constantly increased, and is now quite a nucleus towards building a club-house, and is called the "club-house fund." Various groups within the club have been formed, among which may be mentioned the writing group, which soon became an important means of developing the writing and critical talent of its members. This was limited to twelve, who were obliged to furnish a certain number of articles or contributions, many of which appeared in print; and at least four books in prose and verse have been published, which were first read at the group for its approval. The writing group was an inspiration to the *Original Magazine*, which has appeared annually since 1879, is edited and its articles all written by members of Old and New, and its covers and pages illustrated by "our own artists." A library was early established to contain books, "written either by or about women," but this original and distinctive idea has been changed. The library now numbers two hundred and thirty-two volumes.

To cultivate the social element an annual luncheon has been held since 1885, with toasts and speeches by members alone, and to celebrate its eighteenth birthday in 1897 the club held its first "gentlemen's night." Receptions have been held to which the officers of State clubs and of the General Federation were invited, and social and dramatic entertainments by members have been given. The outside work of the Old and New is quite varied. It has a "Lend-a-Hand" Committee, which sends literature and useful articles to different parts of the country where they are most needed, and has subscribed to many local charities.

In public work the club was the first to petition the State Legislature asking that the "age of consent" for girls should be raised from twelve to eighteen, and was active in the attempt to establish the claim of Anna Ella Carroll in Congress; and in 1879, when the law allowing women to vote for school committee in Massachusetts was passed, a member of the Old and New was the first woman in the State to be registered as a voter, and out of the fifty women voters of that year, fifteen, or nearly one-third, were members of the club, and one of them was elected on the school board.

Of the original members who have continued their membership from the first, there remain but four: Mrs. Rosella F. Baxter, Mrs. Louisa W. Jones, Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson, and Mrs. Harriette R. Shattuck.

The Old and New was incorporated in 1889; joined the General Federation in 1890, and the State federation in 1895. Its club color is golden brown,

and it has a club pin of gold which represents its emblem—"the old moon in the new moon's arms." The club sent a delegate to the first national convention of women's clubs in New York city, Mrs. Harriet H. Robinson, who was elected on the first Board of Directors of the General Federation. It has sent delegates to all the biennial meetings of the organization, and it proposed for the local clubs the office of federation secretary, an idea which has since been widely adopted. The two chief principles of the Old and New have been faithfully adhered to—democratic management, by which all important business is done by the members in open session, and rotation in office. The club has no perpetual president, and thus many members have learned to fill that office acceptably. In parliamentary law the club is now governed chiefly by "The Woman's Manual," written by its first president, which is also the accepted authority of many clubs and organizations, as well as of the General Federation itself.



MRS. H. H. ROBINSON,
Member First Board of Directors of
General Federation

Outlook Club, of Lynn, dates from October, 1896. The preliminary meetings were held at the home of Mrs. C. L. Whitmore, and on Monday evening, October 5th, a formal organization was effected with twenty-two members. The adoption of a constitution and by-laws and the choice of a name came later, and the department idea was accepted as the dominant note in club work. The first three meetings were held in private parlors. After that the club secured its present quarters in the vestry of the First Presbyterian Church.

With the first meeting of the Executive Board, as such, October 29th, the departments of literature, art, and music were established. On November 12th the department of philanthropy was authorized, and on December 7th an application was presented and granted for the formation of a department for scientific reading or study.

The department of literature was the first to get into working order. A class of about twelve on Wednesday evenings enjoyed a course of ten lessons on the life and works of William Morris. On one occasion the Morris designs were illustrated by carpets loaned by I. Goldthwait, of Boston, and again Rev. S. B. Stewart, of the First Unitarian Church, read from the "Earthly Paradise."

A magazine club for the exchange of ten periodicals was successfully

organized, and a correspondence class in rhetoric and composition and a class for the study of contemporaneous English literature were proposed. It was decided, however, to substitute for the latter a series of meetings with authors, and the first was a "Kipling afternoon," to which each member of the club received an invitation. A sketch of the writer was followed by readings from his works, and prints and photographs, hung about the room, added to the interest of the occasion. Still another branch has been recently organized in this department, the study of German, in which Mrs. M. E. Aborn has two small but enthusiastic classes, the one meeting in the afternoon, the other in the evening.

The art department has had two divisions, the art history and art needlework.

The art history section has been deservedly popular under the leadership of Miss Allen, who has been assisted by Mrs. Williams. Work has been carried on through Mrs. DeForrest's "History of Art," original papers by members, photographs, engravings, and lectures of interest.

The conduct of the department of philanthropy has differed somewhat from that of the other sections. Through Mrs. Redman, the chairman, and her assistants, Mrs. Weed and Miss Livingston, the coöperation of the club at large has been enlisted, and friends outside also have been allowed to subscribe to a course of six lectures which have been contributed by local physicians and others. These lectures have been given in the parlors of Mrs. Whitmore, alternating with the work of the club. The topics have been as follows: "Emergencies," "Exercise for Women," "Women's Follies," "Hygiene in the Home," "Eyes."

The work in science has been chiefly in geology and botany. A most attractive class in seashore zoölogy is proposed, to be conducted by Mr. A. W. Grabau, of the Institute of Technology, Boston, who will give lectures on Saturdays at the Boston Natural History rooms, and the afternoons will be spent on neighboring beaches.

The Executive Board has provided for several evenings, the last of which was a "home" evening, when "Leah the Forsaken" was read in costume by Miss Lottie Adams, and music was furnished by Mrs. Hattie Leonard Colburn, after which a tea was served. The hall was charmingly decorated with plants and in the club colors, yellow and white.

Nor has the club been entirely dependent upon its own resources for entertainment. The clubs of the city have been most cordial in extending hospitalities. Invitations have been accepted from the North Shore Club to hear Mr. Martin on "The New Education"; and from the Lynn Woman's Club, when Prof. Edward Cummings spoke on "The Modern City a Menace to Civilization"; while the members of the Executive Board were guests of the

1884 Club at a reading of "Magda" by Mrs. Erving Winslow, with a tea following, and were invited by the Starr Club to hear Rev. Chas. Fleischer speak on "The Jew." In addition, through its subscription of five dollars, the club has been interested in the course on sociology provided by the Associated Charities, and by vote of January 4th membership was applied for and obtained in the Massachusetts State Federation and in the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The Outlook Club, of Lynn, is no longer an experiment; it is an actual fact in the community. The theory that there was room for another woman's club has been amply corroborated by the rapid growth of this organization from twenty-two to one hundred and seven. Seventeen new applications for next year are already filed, and almost as many more are ready for presentation. It has outgrown its present meeting-place, and next year it must find more commodious quarters. The officers of the club are: President, Mrs. Isabel C. R. Livingston; first vice-president, Miss Jean B. McIvor; recording secretary, Mrs. E. M. Holden; corresponding secretary, Miss E. M. Meader; treasurer, Miss Alice B. Sawyer.

Miss Meader suggested the name which is felt to be most propitious, well expressing the purpose as defined in the constitution—"to promote the development of woman along all lines of progress."

The Octagon Club, of Taunton, was organized December 13, 1892, with Mrs. F. C. Walker, president; Miss A. Sampson, vice-president; Miss A. Freeman, secretary and treasurer. The name of the club was suggested by the original membership of eight. It grew in numbers till by vote the membership was limited to twenty-four. Meetings are held fortnightly at the homes of members, beginning with October, and closing with the second meeting in May, which is the annual meeting. This was at first a Current Events Club, but strayed from its original purpose, and devotes itself to the study of American and Roman history and to miscellaneous subjects. The club joined the State federation June 16, 1897. Mrs. F. C. Walker has held the office of president since the beginning, and the other officers are: Miss J. B. Atkins, vice-president; Miss Annie F. Freeman, secretary; Miss R. M. Ward, treasurer.

The Philosophical Club, of Cambridge, grew out of the increasing popularity of the philosophical courses in the Harvard Annex before the Annex became Radcliffe College.

The objects of the club were threefold.

There were five philosophical courses given, and as a student seldom takes more than one, she is confined to the time, or point of view, of that course. The first object of the club was to destroy that limitation, and enable each student to obtain some knowledge of what was going on in the

other courses. The membership of the club was, therefore, composed of representative students from each philosophical course.

The club meets once in two weeks, and at each meeting one or two members are required to prepare some division of a subject in their special line of study. Only notes are permitted. The object in avoiding prepared papers is to teach fluency, self-control, and consecutive thinking.

After the matter has been laid before the club, the rest of the time is spent in discussing the subject, and here the club attains its third object, that of giving the students opportunity for argument; teaching them to rally around but one point, reaching a definite conclusion if possible, and training them in concentration and logical thinking.

These three objects are the ostensible purpose of the club, but there is still a deeper purpose: an earnest search for truth, an honest desire to see things as they are, and to make life reasonable.

The Peabody Woman's Club started in the autumn of 1894, when several ladies formed a topic class, to meet once in two weeks throughout the season. Towards the close of these meetings the matter of forming a woman's club was agitated; a constitution was finally adopted, and the topic class merged into the Peabody Woman's Club. The first annual meeting was held April 26, 1895, when the following officers were elected: Mrs. A. T. Gifford, president; Mrs. M. B. Crehore, Mrs. G. S. Weed, vice-presidents; Miss H. S. Thacher, corresponding secretary; Miss M. E. Poole, recording secretary; Miss M. M. Farley, treasurer; Miss C. P. Lummis, auditor. The club joined the General Federation April 24, 1896, and the State federation March 26, 1897.

The object, according to the constitution, is "to strengthen the intellectual and moral life of its members, and to promote social enjoyment and general improvement."

Classes in literature and in current topics are successfully conducted, and lectures on varied subjects are given at the regular meetings every alternate Friday from October to May. Membership is not limited. The present officers are: M. R. Stackpole, president; Miss H. S. Thacher, Mrs. S. E. Stimpson, vice-presidents; Mrs. A. G. Osborn, corresponding secretary; Miss G. F. Batchelder, recording secretary; Miss N. Cook, treasurer; Mrs. D. P. Hudson, auditor.

The Pentagon Club, of Boston, was founded in 1889 by Miss Lelia Robinson and Miss Alice Parker, who desired to bring together women of the learned professions, with Mrs. Lelia Robinson Sawtelle as general director. This club is not in the State nor the General Federation. Its object is to meet sociably once a month for dinner; also to promote acquaintance among women ministers, physicians, lawyers, teachers, and journalists. Mrs. Alice

Parker Lesser is now director. The annual meeting is the last Saturday in April. The membership is now forty-four, and limited to ten of either profession.

The Portia Club, of Boston, was founded in 1887 by Miss Lelia Robinson and Miss Mary A. Greene, the first women lawyers in Massachusetts, and women law students at the Boston University. It is not in the State nor the General Federation. Its object is to discuss law topics and promote good fellowship among women lawyers and law students. It meets once a month, from November to April 1st, at dinner at the United States Hotel.

The members preside in rotation. Mrs. Alice Parker Lesser is the business agent, and makes the general arrangements for the meetings. The annual meeting is held the first Saturday in April. The present membership is twelve lawyers and eleven students, and is not limited.

The Phillis Wheatley Young Women's Union is a recently formed and incorporated club of young colored women in and near Boston; they took the name from the little girl poet of their race, and their object is to do all they can for the elevation of their sex and people. One purpose is to take charge, as far as possible, of young colored women who may come from the South seeking work, and see that they are protected. There is a fair membership, and a good prospect of increasing and accomplishing a good work. The officers are: Miss F. Blackman, president; Miss P. J. Dorsey, vice-president; Miss F. C. C. Simmonds, treasurer; Miss M. V. Blackman, secretary.

The Quinshipaug Woman's Club, of Milford, was founded June 8, 1897. The club question had been agitated for some time, but no steps were taken until May, when three small reading clubs met and chose a committee and a date for the first meeting. A hall was engaged and notices inserted in the local papers. On the appointed day many ladies were present from Milford, Hopedale, and other neighboring towns. Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, vice-president of the General Federation, and Mrs. C. H. Colburn, vice-president of the Castilian Club, addressed the gathering on "The Value and Work of Women's Clubs," and an organization was effected. Regular meetings are fortnightly, with the annual meeting on the first Monday in April. Membership is already two hundred, and is unlimited. Mrs. M. G. Hobart is the president.

The Round Table, of Haverhill, was established in October, 1894, when Mrs. E. F. Soule gathered twelve ladies into a circle for mutual improvement along the lines of literature, art, music, and history. The next year the number increased to nineteen at the opening of the season, and before the close of that season there were twenty-six members, and the class was organized into the Round Table Club. Mrs. Soule was chosen president, an office which she still fills very acceptably, with Mrs. L. W. Chase as secretary.

The annual meeting is held the first Thursday in June, and Mrs. Ruth Case has succeeded Mrs. Chase as secretary. The club early joined the Haverhill Literary Union, and was admitted to the State federation November 2, 1896.

The object is an all-round development, without regard to sect or creed. Discussions of fifteen minutes in length are held with marked success at the meetings, although the club does not attempt to do much with current events, as many of the members belong to Mrs. O. N. A. Lovejoy's current events class.

Membership in the Round Table is limited to thirty. Its literary studies have been continued during the past year; and it has also considered the preservation of the birds, as recommended by the committee from the State federation.

The Revere Woman's Club was organized in November, 1894, by a few women for mutual improvement, but the number grew rapidly until the membership is now seventy-five, and not limited. The work of this club is very interesting. The members are very busy women; but they are endowed with ability and energy, and the aim of the club has been to develop these to the utmost. Some lectures from outside are occasionally given, but most of the regular work is done by members, and many of the papers are very ably written. In addition to this, the members have assumed the labor of raising funds for and establishing a public library building which shall be an ornament to the town as well as fill a much-needed want. In the past two years they have raised over two thousand dollars, which is drawing interest, and they will continue their labors until a sufficient sum is raised for a handsome and substantial building. As Revere is a town of only seven thousand inhabitants and few of them wealthy citizens, great patience and much hard work will be required.

The annual meeting is November 14th, and the officers are: Mrs. G. H. Sparhawk, president; Mrs. L. K. Washburn, Mrs. F. H. Hussey, vice-presidents; six directors, and a "business" and social committee, Mrs. Milton Ray, Mrs. W. H. H. Whiting, Mrs. L. F. Bullard, Miss Har

The Reading Woman's Club was founded November 3, 1893, and the first officers were: Mrs. A. E. Adams, president; Mrs. J. H. Bosson, Mrs. H. Kittredge, vice-presidents; Mrs. E. S. Wight, treasurer; Miss N. Cook, auditor; Miss Harrison, recording clerk; Mrs. E. F. Wadlin, corresponding clerk. The club joined the General Federation in April, 1894, and belongs also to the State federation. The objects are "to promote a higher, broader, and better culture, intellectually and socially, among its members." The limit is two hundred. There are one hundred and eighty members. The club is divided into departments of literature, current events, social history, domestic science, home, and education. These departments meet fortnightly,

and furnish the literary exercises for at least one meeting each during the season.

The date of the annual meeting is the fourth Friday in May, and the present list of officers includes: Mrs. E. S. Parker, president; Mrs. C. S. Guild, Mrs. A. W. Damon, vice-presidents; Mrs. M. F. Parks, recording secretary; Mrs. G. L. Twombly, corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. M. Bancroft, treasurer; Mrs. C. L. Eames, auditor.

The Old Colony Club, of South Weymouth, was organized in February, 1897. It was voted at that time to hold annual meetings on the second Thursdays of May. The first officers were elected to serve only three months. These were: Mrs. M. E. Holbrooke, president; Mrs. A. Alvord, vice-president; Mrs. E. W. Newell, secretary; Miss M. E. Lovell, treasurer.

The club applied for admission to the State federation June 16, 1897. Its membership of ninety will undoubtedly increase rapidly, as there is a widespread interest in the new club throughout the town. For a long time certain ladies of South Weymouth felt the need of an organization which should bring together for social enjoyment and mental improvement the women of all classes and creeds. Finally Mrs. E. W. Newell started out on a bitter cold day in January, 1897, with the object of canvassing the whole of South Weymouth. One day, however, sufficed to show her that no one woman could hope to do it all; and so two others joined her to such good purpose that eighty names were secured at once, and a call issued for a meeting Thursday, February 18, 1897. Seventy ladies responded to the call with their presence. An article on the work of the General Federation was read, and a discussion as to the various ways of carrying on a woman's club followed. The gathering resolved itself into a business meeting, and organized the Old Colony Club. Seven meetings were held during the spring of 1897, which were well attended, the membership constantly increasing as well as the interest.

The club started its second year with great enthusiasm, and began the study of old colonial history, social science, education, music, woman's work, and current events, giving to each two afternoons, and providing for two or more social occasions. The president is still Mrs. M. E. Holbrooke; Mrs. Elizabeth W. Newell, secretary; Miss Anna Nash, treasurer.

The Springfield Woman's Club.—In the spring of 1894 a few ladies met once a week to read and study Tennyson's "In Memoriam." When that was finished summer was at hand, and the season for study and society work was over; but the meetings had been so pleasant that the ladies resolved to take up some other study in the autumn for the purpose of keeping together and doing some improving work. When they met in October for the consideration of plans, a suggestion was made to increase the number,

and instead of selecting some single topic, to broaden their foundations and make various subjects possible; in short, to become a woman's club.

The idea met with general favor. The name Springfield Woman's Club was adopted, and an organization effected with the following officers: President, Mrs. Maria L. Owen; vice-president, Mrs. A. J. Smith; secretary and treasurer, Miss Dunbar.

The directors were Mrs. Chapman, Mrs. Colburn, Mrs. A. T. Folsom, Mrs. Shipley, and the general officers.

The special aim, as stated in the constitution, is "to create relations of esteem and friendship among its members by giving them facilities for becoming known to each other"; and its general aim, "to promote moral, intellectual, and social improvement."

The growth of the club was quiet and gradual; its life private, and exceedingly delightful to its members. These, however, included the most cultivated and thoughtful women of one of the most intelligent and actively educational of New England towns.

Mrs. Owen, a woman of rare gifts, remained its president for many years, and when she retired was created honorary president for life.

The Springfield Woman's Club was represented at the first meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs through its president, Mrs. Owen, who gave an address without notes upon "Ideal Anniversaries."

The work is miscellaneous, the subject for the day being prepared by members to whom its divisions are assigned.

Some topics have been "Curiosities of Literature," "Color," "Is Woman's Influence Greater in Public or in Private?" "Something New Under the Sun," and "American Characteristics."

The membership is about one hundred, and the present officers are: President, Mrs. S. C. Kellogg; vice-president, Mrs. I. S. Young; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Alice M. Draper.

The Springfield Woman's Club joined the General Federation February, 1890, and the State federation January, 1895.

Its annual dues are five dollars, and its government is vested in the Board of Directors.

The Thought and Work Club of Salem.—It was on the afternoon of July 2, 1891, that a number of ladies met by invitation at the home of Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods, an officer in the General Federation of Women's Clubs and a member of the New England Woman's Club. Seven ladies responded to the invitation; one of them, Mrs. G. A. Oliver, also a member of the Boston Woman's Club.

At the second meeting, held July 18th, thirty ladies were present. A

constitution was adopted, and Mrs. Woods elected president. The name was suggested by her, and unanimously adopted.

The officers elected, besides the president, were: Vice-president, Mrs. Grace A. Oliver; corresponding secretary, Miss Ellen A. Brown; recording secretary, Miss Abbie L. Read; treasurer, Mrs. Emma S. Almy; auditor, Mrs. Sarah Davis, and five directors.

The club was established on much the same lines as the New England Woman's Club in Boston, with points taken from various other organizations and some methods of its own. It was the object to make it broad in its work and liberal in its aims.

The "Symposium of Famous Women," an "Author's Breakfast," a "Roast Goose" supper, and "Christie Murray" banquet are all matters of its history.

In addition to much good literary work, the club has been active in civic affairs. It has labored to improve the schoolrooms, to cleanse the street-cars, and elect women upon the school boards. It has won a half holiday for the clerks in the stores, and presented to the schools a number of fine pictures. It has brought many famous men and women to the old town, and established a headquarters in one of the historic houses, where classes are held and the committee work done.

It has published a book of proverbs, original and selected, which was the outcome of a "proverb tea," the thought of the founder, Mrs. Woods.

Of the classes, the first established by the present president, was a book review class. There are also classes in French and German, and a civic class which has been addressed by prominent city officials and State senators.

There is an excellent glee club in connection with the Thought and Work Club, and a Salem Woman's Club, which is an outgrowth of the parent club. The Thought and Work Club has three honorary members, Mrs. Mary Livermore, Mrs. Charles Mallory, and Mrs. Ormiston Chant.

It has grown from the first seven women to three hundred and fifty members. The motto is "Lofty thoughts and kindly deeds"; the flower, the pansy; the colors, two shades of heliotrope.

Its meetings take place on the second and fourth Saturdays of each month. Its work is done under committees in art and literature, history, education, and home improvement.

The officers (1897-98) are: President, Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods; vice-president, Mrs. Grace A. Oliver; recording secretary, Mrs. W. E. Bacheller; corresponding secretary, Mrs. N. K. Rich; treasurer, Mrs. Ernest Carpenter.

The Tuesday Club, of Cambridge, began its life in the autumn of 1891, meeting weekly for five months each year. It is composed of fifty cultivated women, with a dozen or more upon the waiting list.

It has been engaged in "Studies in Nineteenth Century Thought." Definite and consecutive work in one, or at most two authors, is planned for every year, and every member is expected to come to the weekly reunion, text-book and pencil in hand. Poetry and prose have been followed by the works of John Fiske and Ruskin's "Ethical and Social Questions."

The object has not been to study an author exhaustively, but to select from his works that part which has the most direct bearing on the thought and needs of the present time.

A month was given to the study of Emerson's great essay on "Poetry and Imagination," the best work on poetry ever written in English. The insight reached by a mastery of this serves to give a better comprehension, not only of all poetry, but of about all there is of social philosophy.

Later studies have taken in social and economic questions: trade schools, strikes, and other aspects of the labor and the unemployed problems.

The interest has been gradually increasing in the ethical rather than in the literary studies, and taking on the character of social science investigation.

The Thursday Morning Club of Great Barrington.—On March 15, 1892, nineteen ladies met at the home of one of them to discuss the advisability of organizing a club for general improvement and social enjoyment. After careful consideration it was decided to form such an organization upon as broad a basis as possible, but in the beginning with as little machinery as possible. A president and six directors were chosen to constitute an execu-

tive committee, and women interested were invited to become members upon the payment of \$2 annually. At the end of six months increased interest and membership suggested a more efficient organization. A constitution was adopted and officers elected in accordance with its provisions. The meetings were weekly, and within the first year the membership increased from nineteen to one hundred and twenty.

In the first three years of its life the club held one hundred and thirty-six meetings, twelve of a social or strictly business nature, and of the remainder, sixty-two, or one-half, were made interesting by programmes provided entirely from the membership.

In order to be of the greatest use to the greatest number, it seemed wise to limit the



MRS. SARAH SHELDON COLLINS,
First President of Thursday Morning
Club, of Great Barrington, Mass.

expenditures rather than to increase the membership fees. This fact, and the rather limited quarters occupied by the club, have prevented the frequent occurrence of social occasions. Club gatherings are always brightened by one or more musical selections, and occasionally an entire programme is devoted to a musical performance.

The club took part in the early meetings of the Massachusetts State Federation, and united with it in 1893. In June, 1897, it entertained the entire State federation at its annual meeting held at Great Barrington.

The convention was one of the most successful ever held, and was signalized by a large gathering and the presence of many distinguished club-women.

The president is Miss E. W. Sheldon; vice-presidents, Mrs. S. S. Collins, Mrs. M. S. Dalzell; recording secretary, Mrs. J. C. Gilbert; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. H. Lane.

The club flower is the daisy; the club colors, yellow and white.

The Tuesday Club, of Marlborough, was founded October 18, 1891. The first president was Mrs. Walter Packard; Mrs. W. T. Sulter, secretary; and Mrs. L. P. Howe, treasurer. This club responded to the call from the New England Woman's Club to form a State federation, but it has not joined the General Federation. It is composed of young married women, and, though not large, is intelligent and energetic. It entertained the State federation at its annual meeting in 1894, when its membership was only twenty-five. The limit of membership has since been raised to forty, but it prefers to remain a small club and to stimulate the forming of other clubs. Eminently a study club, the members have emerged from their original attitude as listeners to writing original papers well thought out and well expressed. The two public papers given each year by members chosen by the club for that purpose, are warmly appreciated by as large an audience as is given to any speaker from out of town. The club also hires one noted lecturer each year to give a public evening lecture, which is always a success. The social event of Marlborough is the annual Tuesday Club reception, while its afternoon teas and literary features add greatly to the life of the city. Thus, while it is a small club, comparatively, it has won the regard of the entire community, and has the reputation of doing thoroughly and well whatever it undertakes. Its last year's course of study on New England history serves this year as a guide to several other clubs in the State. The annual meeting is held the last Tuesday in April. The present officers are: Mrs. W. L. Morse, president; Mrs. L. H. Tourtellotte, vice-president; Mrs. H. W. Eager, treasurer; Mrs. J. P. Tayntor, recording secretary; Mrs. W. T. Sulter, corresponding secretary.

The Tuesday Morning Club, of Dorchester, is the outgrowth of a reading and lunch class, which, starting in 1877 with the study of Bacon's

"Essays," became afterwards a botany class, under competent instruction; next a sewing club for local benevolent purposes, a member reading aloud. Thirteen years ago it became a reading club, taking for a text-book Mrs. Oliphant's "The Makers of Florence."

The membership is limited to fifteen. Its meetings are held every Tuesday morning, from October to June, at the house of one of the members. Current events receive much attention, each member having her special department to report.

Once each month an afternoon meeting is held. Friends are invited to hear a lecture or paper, and tea is served. Prominent gentlemen have given evening lectures on some political or municipal subject. The annual meeting is held the last Tuesday in September. The following is the list of officers: Mrs. J. E. Swan, president; Mrs. J. R. Churchill, treasurer; Miss M. R. Bailey, secretary.

The Worcester Woman's Club.—In the autumn of 1880 an assemblage of people who believed in larger opportunities for all who had not enjoyed them met in Worcester to celebrate the thirtieth anniversary of their labors: This anniversary referred specially to a series of organized efforts on behalf of women and their emancipation from legal disabilities.

The interest which grew out of this gathering awakened a desire in the minds of a few women to associate themselves together for mutual improvement and fellowship. An appeal was made to others, the response to which was most gratifying.

The specific aims were set forth in a preamble to the constitution, written by Mrs. Frances M. Baker, the first president of the club: "We, women of Worcester and vicinity, feeling the necessity which the present and prospective status of woman imposes upon us of informing ourselves more fully, not only upon subjects of present general interest, but also upon the more important special questions which are now pressing upon all peoples everywhere for a just solution, because involving the welfare of humanity, do agree to form ourselves into an association for the prosecution and accomplishment of the above-named purpose." The first regular meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. W. A. Knight on December 9, 1880. The constitution, with its preamble, was adopted, and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Frances M. Baker; vice-presidents, Miss Mary P. Jefts, Mrs. Harriette P. Draper; secretary, Miss Alla W. Foster; treasurer, Mrs. Melora F. Pratt. Twenty-two women formed the nucleus of this association.

For a considerable time the club received parlor accommodation from different members; but as the years grew and the membership increased, this became too limited, and various experiments were made until the club finally settled down in Colonial Hall. By this time the work had been placed

in charge of four committees: literature and history, art and science, work and education, and social entertainment.

On the occasion of the tenth anniversary the president, Mrs. Mary C. Harris, said in her annual address: "The responsibilities connected with committee work were entirely new to many who have served in this capacity, and though sometimes assumed with reluctance, were invariably found to be very helpful in the direction of self-discipline and business experience. The instruction and entertainment provided by these officers cover a great deal of ground. They have had a large liberty accorded them, and it is the universal testimony that they have improved their opportunities, so that the programme for each succeeding year has never lacked a generous moral and intellectual stimulus.

"The social duties, thanks to the several committees in charge, have been admirably accomplished. We have been fortunate in always finding in our membership some ladies with decided gifts in this direction. They have combined the kindness of a house-mother with the tact of a society woman, and the result has been in every way enjoyable. The association is indebted to the late Mrs. Harriette P. Draper, assisted by her daughter, now Mrs. J. H. Robinson, for the inauguration of the 'club tea.'"

An "authors' reading" on May 7, 1889, was an occasion long to be remembered. Among the authors who read from their own writings were Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Col. T. W. Higginson, Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton, Miss Edna Dean Proctor, Mr. Arthur Sherburne Hardy, and Mr. George W. Cable.

The presiding officer was then Mrs. Abbie L. Sumner, and at the close of the entertainment a fine reception was given by Mr. and Mrs. Jerome Marble in honor of the distinguished visitors. This was the first great venture of the club in appealing to a public, and the financial success was so creditable that others followed, notably an illustrated lecture by Miss Amelia B. Edwards on "Portrait Painting in Ancient Egypt."

In its papers and discussions much attention was given to educational work. It investigated all the new movements in education, kindergarten, and the influences of the college upon domestic life. It agitated the question and need of a hospital for contagious diseases, and exercised much open hospitality.

Among the women specially distinguished were Mrs. Lucy Stone Blackwell, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, of Rhode Island; Mrs. Maria L. Owens, of Springfield; Mrs. Elizabeth Custer, and Mrs. Croly, of New York city.

The club has now its home in Memorial Hall, Young Women's Christian Association Building. Its regular meetings are fortnightly, on the second

and fourth Wednesdays in each month. Two meetings in the year are for business.

The work is now represented by seven standing committees, including literature, art, education, and miscellaneous topics.

The membership is limited to four hundred ; Mrs. Julia Ward Howe is the only living honorary member. Papers are followed by discussion, and there are frequent addresses or lectures by invited guests.

The sixteenth anniversary (1896) was brilliantly celebrated. The beauty of the auditorium had been greatly enhanced with a profusion of palms, which banked either side of the platform and rose above the piano in graceful tufts of green. The space between the colonial pillars on the stage was festooned with triple ropes of evergreen, caught up in the centre with a wreath. A small table held a rose-bowl of splendid carnations. Seats of honor were reserved for the charter members, of whom ten were present. Mrs. E. L. T. Baldwin presided, and Mrs. A. W. Comins made an address, speaking strongly of the faith and courage necessary to start the club and of the obstacles which its founders experienced. Great wisdom has been shown in not limiting the work, but touching woman's work and needs at all points. She sketched the early migrations of the club from parlor to parlor, from hall to hall, and the early importations of speakers from outside the club. "It has been asserted," she said, "that our club is selfish. Although I find but one record of an appropriation for a purpose wholly disconnected with the club work, the club has performed an important office with regard to the introduction of manual training and the kindergarten into the public schools. The training schools for nurses, the hospital for contagious diseases, the kindergarten for the blind, the free lectures in astronomy to the public school children, must all be mentioned as objects which are in some way indebted to the club." In conclusion, Mrs. Comins said : "What have we gained by our membership in the Woman's Club? A habit of working together ; an appreciation of people whose social and other relations differ from our own ; a higher intellectual standing ; a study of questions to which our attention might not otherwise have been called—resulting in the formation of definite opinions and a confidence in expressing our views ; a quickened interest in the questions of the day ; an increasing tolerance, greater thoroughness in our work ; a mental stimulus which no mere reading could supply ; a closer touch with other bodies of earnest women throughout the land."

The historian adds : "We continue to receive testimony that this associated life with its varied opportunities has been to many women an incalculable benefit ; it is also too plain a fact to escape notice that woman's influence as a factor in the affairs of the world was never more potent than to-day ; it is safe to predict that the coming woman is to help unfold the solemn

and weighty problems of the future. To do this worthily, she must attain to a self-control based upon a sense of judicial fairness to others, crowned with a genuine altruistic interest in all humankind."

The president (1897) is Mrs. Ella L. T. Baldwin; vice-presidents, Mrs. C. S. Lovell and Mrs. S. H. Davis; corresponding and federation secretary, Mrs. A. B. Tucker; recording secretary, Mrs. C. L. Greene; treasurer, Mrs. O. W. Tarple; auditor, Mrs. Mary A. Harris.

The West Newton Woman's Educational Club.—It was in the spring of 1880 that a few women of West Newton met to confer upon the best method of making available the new School Committee Suffrage Law. Several parlor meetings were held and various plans proposed, but three of these pioneers



FOUNDERS OF WEST NEWTON WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL CLUB, MASS.

MRS. LAIMA B. URBINO

MRS. ELECTA N. L. WALTON, President

MRS. CARRIE B. ALLEN

had found in the club the solution to the problem, and decided to propose it as the form of organization most flexible and best suited to their needs. The response was cordial. A committee was appointed to define the object and draft the constitution. On July 28th the club was organized, the membership of twelve furnishing ten officers. An adjournment was then made till autumn.

In the autumn the membership rapidly increased, and a limit was put at eighty, which afterward became one hundred and seventy-five, with always a waiting list.

To accustom members to the use of the pen, one afternoon in each club season has been devoted to ten-minute papers upon any subject chosen by the volunteers. Accounts have been given of summer outings and trips to the Yellowstone Park, Gettysburg, and up the Saguenay on these occasions.

There have been classes in municipal affairs and in literature, but the principal interest has been centred in the public schools.

The club was the means of introducing sewing as a regular school exercise; a member volunteering, as an experiment, to teach girls gratuitously in one of the schools. Her success was marked. A member of the School Committee, also a member of the club, pressed the matter before the board, and the plan was adopted.

The club supports a scholarship for the Freedmen in Tuskegee, and sends each year contributions of books and clothing.

The social life consists of an annual reception at the beginning of the season, a "gentlemen's" night at New Year, and the anniversary supper in May. The supper is enlivened by toasts, speeches, and poems. At one of these suppers all were invited to bring a quotation from Shakespeare; at another, from Holmes; at another, from Lowell. Again, a reply was solicited to the query, "What is happiness?"

A June picnic each year, always at some interesting or historical spot, has furnished many memorable occasions; the story of the previous one, by some well-informed member, adding zest to the outdoor feast.

The influence upon the community has been altogether good. Barriers have been broken down. The little and belittling social and religious cliques of the village are less marked. It is acknowledged that there is a wider, broader interest, each for the other, outside of the club, as well as in it, and that this in some measure is due to its existence; while in the club the exercise of the social graces has been most marked. Since its inception nothing has occurred to mar its harmony.

The West Newton Woman's Educational Club joined the General Federation in 1890, the State federation June, 1893, and the city federation June, 1895. It reported at the first club convention called by Sorosis in 1889, and printed a souvenir for the first club exhibit.

The president was and is Mrs. Electa N. L. Walton; the two other founders are Mrs. C. B. Allen and Mrs. L. B. Urbino; the corresponding secretary is Mrs. Susan D. Crockett.

Wintergreen Club, of Boston, was formed in 1891. The idea originated with Mrs. Julia K. Dyer, who is said to belong to more clubs than any other woman in America. The plan was for a small club limited to twenty-five women, not one under fifty years of age. It had but three officers: the president, Mrs. Dyer; secretary, Mrs. S. A. Bigelow; treasurer, Mrs. Kate Tannatt Woods. A more recent appointment is that of historian. The members are chiefly composed of club presidents or ex-presidents. It does not aim to "work" or discuss "subjects." But it started the movement against large theatre hats, and the large Greek meeting held in Faneuil Hall was the outcome of

one of its suppers. It meets at private houses, the members taking turns in entertaining.

Mrs. Julia Ward Howe and Mary A. Livermore are both members of the Wintergreen Club, and Helen Gardiner, who was once entertained as a guest, wrote verses, of which the following is one :

"Those dear old, cheery old, Wintergreen girls!
Still steadfastly playing their parts;
They stood by the cradle when we were not—
Yet to-day they have evergreen hearts!"

Wheaton Seminary Club of Boston.—To go back to the Wheaton Female Seminary, from which the Wheaton Alumnae associations and clubs have grown, is to go back to the days of pioneer education.

It was in 1834 that Mary Lyon, while waiting for the plans of Mount Holyoke Seminary to be completed, went to the little town of Norton and gave the counsel asked for to Judge Wheaton of that place, who was then founding Wheaton Seminary as a memorial to a beloved daughter.

The New England Wheaton Seminary Club was founded in October, 1888, and was less than one year old when it was represented by its president, Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill, at the convention of clubs in New York in 1889. The organization was from the first preëminently a club, with monthly meetings, literary exercises, and a programme committee which outlined a course for study and discussion for the entire season. The subjects were miscellaneous in character, such as "The Novel: Its Rise and Development," "Present Phases of the English and American Novel," "Different Styles of Architecture as Illustrated by English Cathedrals," "France of To-day in Literature," "Politics," "Art," "Chemistry and Its Applications," "Protection *vs.* Free Trade."

These topics were all included in the first year's work, and abundant and very suggestive material was developed as time went on.

The annual meeting in June took the form of a garden party at Norton, and was more of a reunion of the scattered graduates than the usual meetings.

The membership, like that of most clubs, was a union of diverse elements, including poets, teachers, artists, connoisseurs, authors, philanthropists, and, in brief, every variety of woman of the good and useful sort into which girls may develop. One of the most marked features of this diversity is that of age: one member was at Wheaton in 1835, and one, a girl of eighteen, just out of school.

The present officers are: President, Miss A. M. Kilham, Beverly; vice-president, Miss F. V. Emerson, Boston; recording secretary, Mrs. A. S. Steb-

bins, Boston ; corresponding secretary, Miss S. C. Aiken, Auburndale ; treasurer, Miss J. E. Brice, Medford.

The Waltham Woman's Club grew, in 1893, out of the Hospital Aid Society, a body of women whose efforts were directed to the care and promotion of the interests of a beneficent institution of which Waltham is justly proud.

At a meeting of the Executive Board in April, 1893, at the close of the session, a member produced a beautiful collection of pictures gathered during a prolonged foreign tour. These, with history and anecdote, drew from a tireless worker the remark, "How refreshed I feel! I wish we could look forward to such entertainment regularly." "Let us form a woman's club," suggested another. The desire was unanimous, and Mrs. N. M. Daniels, who was at that time president of the Hospital Aid Society, was made chairman of a committee to take the preparatory steps. Mrs. N. M. Daniels was subsequently made president of the new organization ; Mrs. S. E. Smith, vice-president, and Miss M. J. Miles, secretary. To these were added later, at a meeting upon April 26th, a second vice-president, a treasurer, and ten directors. The drafting of constitution and by-laws was assigned to three members of the Executive Board, and adopted upon May 12th. Thus the club was equipped and launched. The platform is social, ethical, æsthetic, and intellectual advancement. Its nine standing committees represent social, ethical, æsthetic, intellectual, educational, musical, reception, current events, and civic interests.

The club joined the State federation in 1894, the General Federation in 1896. It has reached its limit of membership—three hundred. The club sessions are every third Friday, the department meetings weekly.

The club motto is the stimulating thought tritely expressed by its late honored townsman, Gen. N. P. Banks—"Success is a duty." On the roll-call are many brilliant women whose names are known beyond local limits, and whose ability is not confined to a single line of usefulness. The officers for 1898 are: President, Mrs. N. M. Daniels; first vice-president, Mrs. M. Young; second vice-president, Miss S. E. Frost; recording secretary, Mrs. I. L. Gibbs; corresponding secretary, Miss M. J. Miles; treasurer, Mrs. S. I. Smythe; auditor, Miss H. Torrey.

The Wednesday Morning Club, of Boston, dates from the year 1870, when a few of the members of the New England Woman's Club who desired greater freedom in discussion met and organized "a conversational." The meetings were held every Saturday morning through the winter months at Berkeley Hall during twelve consecutive years.

The object was personal culture. Pleasant friendships were made, and the habit of thinking quickly, responding promptly, and refuting without

arguing was formed, greatly to the intellectual advancement of the members, of whom there were usually about twenty present. In 1881 the membership having become reduced by death and removals, those remaining took counsel together, recruited their members from the mother club, chose a president, and continued the "conversational" for years at No. 3 Park Street, with a membership of nearly forty. Wednesday mornings were chosen for the meetings, and Wednesday substituted for Saturday in the name of the organization, and it continued to be known as the Wednesday Morning Conversational for three years. In 1888 a constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the name changed to Wednesday Morning Club. It was decided to meet on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from November to May. The following year it was again changed to the second and fourth Wednesdays. The studies have been Egypt, Assyria, Greece, and Italy.

The annual meeting is the second Wednesday in March, and the club belongs to the State federation. There is a limited membership of forty, which is full, and a waiting list. The officers are: Mrs. Oliver Crane, president; Mrs. J. A. Follett, Mrs. C. H. Colburn, vice-presidents; Miss F. Bartlett, secretary; Mrs. J. M. Hoyt, assistant secretary; Mrs. G. O. North, treasurer.

The Wednesday Morning Club, of Pittsfield, was organized August 23, 1879, and although it is one of the largest and most influential clubs of western Massachusetts, it has not joined any federation. The membership is limited to two hundred and fifty, and meetings are held from the first of June till December, on Wednesday mornings, with the annual meeting the last of November.

The first officers were: Miss Anna L. Dawes, president; Mrs. W. E. Vermilye, vice-president; Miss Gertrude Clapp, secretary; Miss Maria R. Warriner, treasurer.

The Saturday Morning Club, of Boston, was taken as a model; but several features characterize this organization that are original. It was decided that discussions should alternate with lectures. Honorary members were invited to share the privilege of listening to the lectures, but excused from office-holding and the discussions. The presence of these honorary members, some of whom may be termed the foster-mothers of the club (notably Mrs. Henry L. Dawes and Mrs. Thomas F. Plunkett), is an inspiration to the active members. Many famous speakers of both sexes have appeared before this club, although it is a rule never to pay for lectures or papers. The work is educational and literary, and the fact that Miss Anna L. Dawes has been president from the first, is sufficient guarantee of its thoroughness. Her enthusiasm and persistent energy have made the club a successful organization for the pleasure and profit of its members. With her aid it has attracted the

voluntary teachings of many whose reputation is world-wide in discovery, in art, in science, and in literature. She has also directed and encouraged many discussions which have stimulated the members of the club in intellectual researches which inspire the thought of the century.

The present officers are: Miss A. L. Dawes, president; Mrs. J. W. Hull, vice-president; Miss J. W. Redfield, secretary; Miss Isabella T. Redfield, assistant secretary; Mrs. J. H. Hinsdale, treasurer; Miss S. M. Mills, assistant treasurer. The Executive Board select topics in the winter for next year's study; and a list is sent to each member, with synopsis of work to be done.

The Working Girls' Clubs, of Massachusetts, number twenty-four, with the following chief officers: Miss E. M. Howes, president; Miss A. S. Clement, vice-president; Miss L. C. Richards, secretary; Miss E. M. Eustis, assistant secretary; Mrs. H. C. Ernst, treasurer. The clubs are: Amaranth Club, of Roxbury; Boylston Club, Boston; Cambridge Girl's Club; Clover Club, Boston; Fall River Working Girl's Club; Friendly Workers, Boston; Girl's Endeavor Club, New Bedford; Girl's Social Union, New Bedford; Hunnewell Working Girl's Club, Charlestown; Jamaica Plain Working Girl's Club; Louise Alcott Club, Boston; Mount Pleasant Working Girl's Association, Providence, R. I.; Newton Girl's Social Club; Newport Working Girl's Club; Pittsfield Working Girl's Club; Rainbow Club, Northampton; Rollins Club, Boston; Shawmut Working Girl's Club, Boston; The Enterprise Club, Malden; The Merry Workers, Milton; Thursday Evening Club, Boston; Twentieth Century Club, Boston; The Young Women's Guild, Springfield; United Workers, Roxbury.

Michigan

THERE is no State in the Union that owes more to the intelligent, self-denying work of its women than does the State of Michigan.

Its library and educational system are not surpassed by any in the world; and the foundation of these was largely laid by the early women settlers.

Mrs. Boutell, of Detroit, in an admirable paper on "The Michigan System of Caring for Dependent Children," paid a high tribute to the women pioneers from New York who settled within the circle of the Great Lakes. Specially she commended the work of Mrs. Haviland, who, in her own home, upon their own farm with the aid of her husband, laid the foundation in the early thirties for the Michigan State public school; who founded the Rasin Institute upon the Oberlin plan, and whose work laid the foundations for the State Home for Dependent Children, which now occupies a fine farm near the city of Coldwater, and is a model for all other institutions of the same kind.

The Ladies' Library Association, of Kalamazoo, organized in 1852, was the earliest society of the kind in the United States founded and maintained by women. Its growing needs early prompted the laying up of a fund for a building of its own, which, upon a lot presented by a woman, Mrs. Webster, was completed in 1878; the first library building owned and controlled by women in this country.

*"The more things that thou
learnest to know and to enjoy,
the more complete and full
will be for thee the delight
of living."—Platen.*

The constitution of the Ladies' Library Association, organized January, 1852, reorganized and incorporated 1859, and amended by the Board of Directors December, 1890, states: "That the object of this association shall be the establishment and maintenance of a library to afford and encourage useful and entertaining reading, to provide literary and scientific lectures and other means of promoting moral and intellectual improvement in the city of Kalamazoo."

The officers consisted of a board of fifteen directors, who elected from their own number a president and other general officers.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. F. W. Cornell; vice-president, Mrs. J. B. Cornell; secretary, Mrs. L. P. McDuffee; assistant secretary, Mrs. M. S. Turner; treasurer, Mrs. Harriet D. Phelps; the directors: Mrs. J.



LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION BUILDING, KALAMAZOO, MICH.

W. Breese, Miss Harriet D. Phelps, Mrs. F. W. Cornell, Mrs. Allen Potter, Mrs. J. B. Cornell, Mrs. J. O. Seely, Mrs. John den Bleyker, Mrs. A. M. Stearns, Mrs. J. J. Griffiths, Mrs. L. H. Stone, Ph.D., Mrs. Frank Henderson, Mrs. C. W. Trask, Mrs. L. P. McDuffee, Mrs. M. S. Turner, Mrs. F. C. Van Wyck.

The meetings of the association were annual, those of the directors monthly, and special ones could be called by the Board of Directors. One dollar annually entitled any person to the use of the library.

Lectures and, in time, classes in the French language, Shakespeare, and history grew out of the Library Association, finally culminating, in 1873, in the greatest and most valuable aid to its work—the Ladies' Library Club.

"The superior man does not set his mind against anything; what is right he will follow."—Mencius.

The club has its home in the library building, but its organization is independent of the association. It has its own officers, and the membership is divided into four committees—art and literature, science and education, history, and miscellaneous subjects.

The meetings of the club are held weekly on Monday afternoons from the first in October to the last in May. When a fifth Monday occurs the programme is arranged by the president.

The club fee is \$1 annually, and members may invite friends from out of town as guests, but for others they must pay a fee of ten cents.

Two weeks before the annual meeting the club, by informal ballot, indicates its choice for president, vice-president, secretary, assistant secretary, and critic for the ensuing year. From the names thus suggested the Nominating Committee, previously appointed by the president, prepares a ticket, choosing in each case the name having the largest number of votes. Before placing the name of any lady upon the ticket her consent must be obtained. Chairmen of committees are elected in the same way as other officers.

The programmes for the year have been of a miscellaneous character. An address was upon "Habits of Posture and Their Influence Upon Health," by Dr. E. M. Mosher, dean of Woman's Department, Michigan University.

A "president's day" was celebrated by Tennyson's "Dream of Fair



DIRECTORS' PARLOR, LADIES' LITERARY ASSOCIATION, KALAMAZOO, MICH.



CLUB-ROOM, LADIES' LIBRARY ASSOCIATION, KALAMAZOO, MICH.

Women," Mrs. O. A. La Crone, chairman, personally illustrated by "Helen of Troy," Mrs. E. N. Dingley; "Iphigenia," Miss Edith Osborn; "Cleopatra," Miss Evelyn Stearns; "Jephtha's Daughter," Miss Alma Desenberg; "Rosamond," Miss Caddie Severens; "Margaret More," Miss Gertrude Gray; "Joan of Arc," Miss Gertrude den Bleyker; "Eleanor of Castile," Miss Jean Drake.

The membership is now one hundred and fifty women, of whom thirty-seven are united in the art and literature section, thirty-eight in science and education, thirty-eight in history, and thirty-seven in the miscellaneous department.

Michigan's Club Mother.—In a letter to Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin Mrs. L. H. Stone, of Kalamazoo, an honorary vice-president of the General Federation, writes apropos of clubs: "Women's clubs are a growth, as far as I have studied or known of them. In all but the name *club*, they have had a beginning in many places, and have been developed upon lines suited to the wants and tastes of the particular place where they have been established. The idea has been diffused by a kind of mental telepathy or telegraphy. No one place can claim to have been that of their special origin, nor have they had their beginning in this country.

"Ten years ago I visited the beautiful little town of Llangollen in Wales. I had been there several times before and been very deeply interested in the atmosphere of that place, but at this time as I entered the 'Hand Hotel,' the first thing that attracted my attention was a large placard on the opposite wall, which was a notice of a celebration of the *seventy-fifth* anniversary of the Llangollen Woman's Club. I could not remain for the coming celebra-

tion, but I made inquiries about this club, of the dear old lady at the head of the hotel (a most interesting woman), who had herself been one of its patrons and members for years. It was a club very much resembling in its objects and purposes the Working Girl's Club in which Miss Dodge has been so many years engaged in New York. This was founded by the celebrated ladies of Llangollen, of whom Mr. Alger gives such an interesting account in his 'Friendships of Women,' and of whom a fuller account I had read by Madame de Genlis.

"But older than the Llangollen Woman's Club was a club established by Anne Hutchinson (whom I have reason to believe was an ancestor of mine). Edward Everett Hale says this was the first woman's club in America. Anne Hutchinson emigrated to this country in 1634, and this club was established very soon after her arrival here. Its history is a very interesting one, for it was the cause of her martyrdom. But further back than this, or any such movement in our country, was the woman's club that Aspasia established for the education and benefit of women in Athens, nearly four hundred years before our era. All of these are seeds sown from which have grown up the movement in America.

"Far more recently than Anne Hutchinson's club was that of a club in all but the name, the classes of Margaret Fuller, which I have frequently heard referred to in women's clubs. I think we must recognize these influences in a history of women's clubs. I know that they have had an influence in the formation of these organizations with which I have been connected.

Their history has always been referred to, and forms the subject of papers in many clubs with which I have been connected. We cannot ignore them.

"In 1852 a few ladies in Kalamazoo formed the Ladies' Library Association. No public library then existed in this new Western town, and this



MRS. L. H. STONE,

Honorary Vice-President of General Federation and
Honorary President of Michigan State Federation

library was established as a means of educating the people, and forming a taste for reading in the community of Kalamazoo. From the very first there was connected with the library board meetings a literary club in all but the name, which was conducted in precisely the same way as our clubs now are. It was called a social of the association. Literary exercises, reviews of books, and papers on literary and ethical subjects were prepared for these monthly meetings, which soon became semi-monthly, and I can perceive that they had a great influence in forming the tastes which afterwards formed the club in its place.

"I think it was the next year after the New England Woman's Club was formed in Boston that I spent several weeks in Boston, visited the various clubs, and in 1872 I spent the winter there, and on coming home I proposed at a meeting of the Library Association that we establish a club, calling it a 'club.' I had copied the constitution of the New England Woman's Club, and the Ladies' Library Club, of Kalamazoo, was modelled on precisely the same plan. When I was asked what should be the name of this club, I well remember the trepidation with which I answered: 'Why, they call theirs the woman's club'; and I was surprised by the ready consent to call ours the 'woman's club,' though there were some who feared the name might savor somewhat of woman's rights. Later, at a time when I was absent, this club took the name of 'The Ladies' Library Club,' which seemed very proper, as it was a part of the Library Association. This is the first club, as far as I know, formed in the West. [See record 'Friend in Council,' Jacksonville Sorosis, Illinois, Historian.]

"In the formation of the Library Association, in which our present 'library club' had its origin, we owe very much to Mrs. A. S. Kedsey, and the conception of the plan of conducting a literary club is, as I remember it, due more to her than to any one else; and this idea of connecting with the Library Association, literary exercises similar to those of every club in the State was, as I recollect it, a chance suggestion.

"I was at that time the principal of the Ladies' Department of Kalamazoo College, and had for two winters before this held what I called a 'Saturday Evening Reunion,' to which the professors and the advanced students were invited, and almost always a few persons from town; and, as I recollect it, Mrs. Kedsey said to me one day: 'Why not have something of this kind connected with the meetings of our Library Association?' Thus was really established what has grown into our library club.

"A library association was formed in the town of Flint, Mich., a year previous to that of Kalamazoo, but I do not know of literary meetings being connected with it. Something of the same kind was established in Dubuque, Iowa. Mrs. Adams, of Dubuque, thinks it quite as early as the club of Kalamazoo, but as far as I know, almost all the clubs of this State may be con-

sidered an outgrowth of this first club in Kalamazoo. I think I am a member of fifty Western clubs, at least, that have been direct outgrowths of this club, which have given me the name of 'Mother of Clubs.'

"Thus clubs are, as I say, a growth. The idea has grown up, and by a kind of telepathy or telegraphy been diffused throughout the State and the West, each club being developed according to the needs or tastes of the town where it has been formed, and one has been the suggestion of another. Their influence in educating the people has been very great. I think the influence of our University has not been greater. I am astonished at every visit I pay to these clubs to see what they have done for women. ✓

"Yours most truly,

L. H. STONE."

Mrs. Stone was born Lucinda Hinsdale in New England. She accompanied her husband, the Rev. Mr. Hinsdale, to Michigan in 1843, and was associated with him in the work of the branch university, and afterwards at Kalamazoo College. Mrs. Stone has trained hundreds of young women in schools and classes throughout the State, and this work has laid the foundation of many clubs. In recognition of her efforts the University of Michigan, in 1891, conferred upon her the degree of Ph.D. [Historian.]

The Adrian Woman's Club owes its origin to two ladies, Mrs. Clara W. Raynor and Mrs. W. H. Cleveland, who, in October, 1882, agreed to meet once a week to read. Soon the number grew to five, and gradually increased to twenty-three. The only officer was a president, and no records were kept until 1887.

In November, 1891, a reorganization took place. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the present name chosen.

The membership is now seventy-five, with a limit of one hundred.

Of the original five, three have left the city. Mrs. Raynor and Mrs. Shaw are still active members. Mrs. Cleveland resides in Detroit, and is the only honorary member.

Mrs. Raynor has served as treasurer, and three terms as president. She is at this time a director in the State federation.



MRS. MARY L. COLVIN,
President Adrian Woman's Club, Mich.

In May, 1893, the club joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and was one of the clubs to send delegates to Lansing in March, 1895, when the State federation was organized. Mrs. Raynor had been previously appointed one of the committee to prepare the constitution, which was adopted at that time.

Until 1893 the club met weekly at private homes. It now rents rooms in the Masonic Temple. The color used is that of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.



MRS. CLARA W. RAYNOR,

Ex-President of the Woman's Club, Adrian,
and a Director of the Michigan State
Federation of Women's Clubs

There are four departments for work: history, art and literature, science and education, and household economics.

The work of the year has been devoted to English history from the beginning of the seventeenth century to the early part of the nineteenth, with a review of the art and literature of the same period.

One day was given to "Social Settlements: Their Origin and Growth."

The department of household economics discussed "Laws and Principles of Interior Decoration," "Home-maker *vs.* House-keeper," "Æsthetic Needs of Home Life," "Vulgar Waste and Elegant Economy," "Are Domestic Inventions Appreciated?" "Health and Comfort in the Home," "Club Influence on Home Life." Other topics have been: "Science and Industry," "Art as an Educator," "Modern Advertising," "What Do We

Like Most in the Newspaper of the Present?" "What Features Would We Eliminate if We Could Do as We Liked?"

The chairman of each division becomes a director, and has charge of the programme for the social days, when refreshments are often provided.

The officers and directors form the Executive Committee, who plan the work of the year. The calendar is issued in July. Initiation fee is \$3, and annual dues, payable at annual meeting in advance, \$2.

The officers are: President, Mary L. Colvin; vice-president, E. Frances Stone; recording secretary, Mary S. Miller; corresponding secretary, Nida P. Hardy; treasurer, Hattie C. Clark.

Battle Creek Ladies' Library Association.—This association was founded in 1864 by Mrs. Ann Graves, wife of Benjamin F. Graves. She was its first

and only president, until her death in 1894. It had no organization, no constitution, and no by-laws, and no officer, save herself.

The women associated with her, inspired by her earnestness and their own desire for mental culture, became a power for good in the town of Battle Creek.

A library of 1,200 volumes was collected, and the nucleus of a building fund secured.

After Mrs. Graves' death a reorganization took place, and the name was changed to Ladies' Literary and Art Club, but subsequently, when incorporated, it became Battle Creek Woman's Club.

In February, 1896, the Woman's League, of Battle Creek, was formed, and includes in its organization the Political Science Club, the Treble Clef, and the Woman's Club. These have each their separate organizations and manage their own affairs, but they share the same rented rooms, and on occasions appear as a united body.

The membership altogether is between three and four hundred.

The Woman's Club, of Bay City, was organized in 1892. Its membership was at first limited to fifty women, but its line of work was so attractive and offered so much diversity of interest that in the second year its membership was increased to one hundred and fifty. It is housed in a fine suite of rooms offered for its use by the Bay City Gentlemen's Club. Here, weekly, a course of historical study is pursued, brightened by occasional lectures upon art, architecture, and kindred subjects. In the language of Mrs. Martha E. Root, one of the two projectors of the club in its incipency:

"Its prospects are most encouraging. Its educational effect is felt in its diffusion of literary taste extending to the homes of the city; in the ennobling reputation it gives to busy women who have little time for social life; in the solace it gives to those who have borne bereavement and sorrow; and, above all, in the moral strength it affords to the city's forces for good."

Collegiate Sorosis.—In the spring of 1886 five young women, who then formed a chapter of a Greek letter society at the University of Michigan, feeling hampered by some of the limitations of the secret society, resolved to relinquish their connection, and formed another society, non-secret in its character, catholic in its aims, and exacting in its standard of scholastic and personal requirements.



COLLEGIATE SOROSIS, ANN
ARBOR, MICH.

To Mrs. Henry Wade Rogers, the wife of President Rogers, of Northwestern University, was due the idea that such an organization might have an honorable and enjoyable affiliation with Sorosis, of New York. By Mrs. Rogers were enlisted the interest and sympathy of Mrs. J. C. Croly, then president of Sorosis, and, after deliberation

and conference, Sorosis kindly acknowledged the new fledgling by name, and sped her on her journey in the world under the name of Collegiate Sorosis. This new body, while holding to the aims and principles of the parent organization, was yet left free to adapt itself to the local conditions and requirements of the university life of which it was to be a part.

The active charter members, five in number, immediately increased the



COLLEGIATE SOROSIS, UNIVERSITY OF ANN ARBOR, MICH.

membership by five more. As a recognition of her kindness, Mrs. Croly was elected honorary member; Mrs. Henry Wade Rogers, Mrs. George S. Morris, and Mrs. P. R. B. DePint, all wives of professors in the university, gave their support and coöperation as associate members. In the following year the wife of the president of the university, Mrs. James B. Angell, also became an associate member, together with Mrs. Victor C. Vaughn. This relation between the young women and the wives of faculty members has been so stimulating and helpful that all the other societies for young women here,

except one, have followed the example of Collegiate Sorosis, and are now connected with one or more of the wives of professors, who assist them as patronesses.

The aims of the society, as expressed in the constitution, are: "To promote fellowship, social culture, and such a liberal interchange of thought as will aid the development of the highest and best in character."

Its members are regularly matriculated students in the university, and are reinforced from each succeeding freshman class. From a membership of ten it has increased to an average yearly membership of twenty-five, and it already counts about ninety alumnæ members on its lists.

The weekly meetings are both literary and social in character, and the members, burdened as they are with the exacting requirements of university work, find in them both a stimulus and a relief. A discussion of current events is an important feature, but, in addition, the work of the society is largely personal and social—the building up of right ways of thinking, and right relations between the girls themselves, the associate members, and between them and the entire university life. In this latter connection Collegiate Sorosis has been useful in organizing a flower mission for the hospitals, and later in helping to establish the Woman's League, an organization designed to be helpful to all young women in the university.

Collegiate Sorosis has some useful business training in the rental and management of a house, which serves as a home for the society; and within the last year a corporation has been formed of members and interested friends, whose intent it is to build a permanent home for the club.

After college the members separate, some to return home, some to pursue graduate work in this or other universities, and some to go the matrimonial way of all the earth. Indeed, it may be said that the graduate members of Collegiate Sorosis have quite largely continued their interest in higher education; some nine have married professors engaged in university work, two going to Chicago University and seven remaining in Ann Arbor as resident members.

One of our graduate members was for two years at the head of the domestic science department of Pratt Institute, and now holds a position somewhat similar in Chicago; another is instructor in history at Vassar College.

This valued connection with its alumnæ, and through them with the increasing body of thinking women everywhere, is one great reason for the existence and continuance of Collegiate Sorosis.

To this record may be added that membership in Collegiate Sorosis is rigidly confined to those who have reached a certain grade of scholarship; that it stands for earnestness and sincerity of purpose, as well as the possibilities of brilliant attainment.

The grouped picture shows the senior class of the University of Ann Arbor for 1897 that compose the central body of Collegiate Sorosis. The insignia is an "S" in frosted gold, with "C" set in pearls.

The Columbian Circle, of Coldwater, is an original club of clubs. It was founded in the beginning of 1893 by Miss Mary Eddy, city librarian, and a group of her personal friends. The idea was to form a large club of a number of small circles, each circle limited to fifteen members, and organized with two general officers, chief and keeper of the records. The constitution provided for as many small circles as there were women who desired membership, for the purpose of making a study of the World's Fair. The organization was, however, to be a permanent one under the name of Columbian Rainbow Circle, each circle independent in its method of work, and to be distinguished by a separate color, the whole to form the rainbow unit.

The club at first numbered thirteen circles, but after the fair the work languished, and changes were considered desirable. The constitution was revised, and the name changed to Columbian Club.

Eleven circles were working in 1896 within this centre of unity. Some have taken historical study, one Shakespeare, and others current events. The keeper of records has become the secretary, and the chief the president. The progress is now along more independent lines for each part of the organization.

The Detroit Woman's Club.—This is the oldest club in Detroit. It was founded in April, 1877, for the study of history, literature, and the discussion of current events. The meetings are weekly, and some change has been effected during the later years in the prominence given to its subjects. After a study of Egypt, Italy, Germany, the mythology of Greece, France, England, and the United States, the order of work was changed. The first meeting of the month is now given to some department of science, the second to literature, the third to politics, and the fourth to art.

The business is transacted within the first hour. A brief recess is permitted, and then the club proceeds to the work of the day, which is led by one of the members in alphabetical order. No papers are allowed; the work is entirely oral, and each member must prepare herself for the consideration of the subject as a whole.

A committee prepares the year's programme during the summer's vacation, and a critic is appointed weekly upon pronunciation and form. No regular text-books are required, each member selecting her own authority; but certain standard works are purchased upon given subjects for the use of the leader, the public library being the main dependence.

Ethics has been made a subject of special study by this club, stimulated

by a desire of Mrs. Stone that a chair of "social ethics" should be founded at Ann Arbor University, to be always filled by a woman. A meeting was held in Mrs. Boutell's parlors in 1896 to consider the subject; and an association was suggested to forward the object.

The studies of the club have never followed a rigid, conventional method. They have been taken chronologically, but with special reference to that which was most interesting and important, and have included the architecture, myths, and symbolism of the countries and periods under consideration. Time has also been given to sociologic questions and the topics of the hour. Some practical work has also been done in a philanthropic direction. A dispensary and bureau of supplies have been maintained for needy women during severe seasons, and in other ways help has been afforded.

The Detroit Woman's Club was represented by report at the first convention of the General Federation in New York, by delegate at Chicago in 1892, at Philadelphia in 1894, and Louisville in 1896. It is an active, energetic, and thoroughly wide-awake body of women.

The Detroit Review Club was founded in 1891 with a limited membership of twenty-five, and its methods were those of a class with a paid leader. In 1894 it was incorporated as a club, and joined the General Federation. In November, 1895, it joined the State federation, and has since become a member of the city federation. Until 1896 it met at private houses; but in the beginning of that year the by-laws were amended, taking away the limit, and the membership at once doubled—forty regular and ten associate.

Rooms were then rented, and a course in parliamentary law begun under Mrs. Emma A. Fox.

The studies in literature, history, and current events are now of an independent character, and the work is greatly enjoyed.

The Inter Nos History Club began in October, 1893, upon the lines of the Woman's Club. It meets at the home of one of the members, the number never having exceeded ten. The work in history and literature is by study and conversation; no papers allowed. It has studied English and French history, with special reference to the Reformation and Renaissance periods.

The Clio Club was founded in January, 1893. It has made a special study of Shakespeare's plays and the dramas of old Rome. Short talks upon the subject assigned are a feature of the work, which is planned a year in advance by a committee appointed for the purpose.

The Twentieth Century Club, of Detroit, was organized in March, 1894. The foundation was laid by a meeting of women at the home of Mrs. Clara McAdow; and the principles recognized and adopted were: "To receive only women as members, and only such as were willing to do earnest work. Social

distinctions to be ignored, and progress towards a higher civilization and peaceful adjustment of vexed questions to be the aim."

The club was fortunate in electing Miss Clara Avery as president. The heads of departments were also wisely chosen, Mrs. Samuel L. Smith having charge of the education and home departments, Mrs. Frederick Whitten of art and literature, Mrs. Charles Fox of reform, Mrs. Luther Trowbridge of philanthropy, and Miss Hastings of philosophy and science. Later the departments of philanthropy and reform were combined under the leadership of Mrs. Trowbridge.

Beginning with a membership of forty-five, the number more than doubled within the first year.

The ethical and philosophical sides of subjects have occupied a large place in discussions; but in the departments of art and literature the place of the "American Scholar in Politics" proved an interesting theme. Herbert Spencer's "Data of Ethics" was considered chapter by chapter, and in the department of education "Conduct as a Fine Art" and "Studies in Character" were discussed.

Gentlemen are occasionally invited to speak on special topics; and in January, 1896, several, including a leading physician and clergyman, were present at a symposium of "How Morality Should Be Taught in the Public Schools."

The social side is cultivated by occasional afternoon teas, and the feeling of comradeship is thus strengthened.



The Ladies' Literary Club of Grand Rapids.—In the winter of 1869-70 a group of ladies in Grand Rapids formed a class for the study of history under the leadership of Mrs. L. H. Stone, of Kalamazoo. Later, when Mrs. Stone found herself unable to continue the class, the same ladies met at private houses for continued study.

In the beginning of 1873 they resolved to organize a literary club, and invite others to join them. A meeting was called of those likely to be interested, and a large number of women responded. A constitution was drawn up, officers were elected, and the Ladies' Literary Club formed. The first meeting was held in April, 1873, and ten years later the club was incorporated "for the promotion of literary and scientific pursuits."

"We should so live and labor in our time, that what came to us as seed, may go to the next generation as blossom, and that what came to us as blossom, may go to them as fruit. This is Progress."

The Ladies' Literary Club meets weekly on Saturday afternoons. Its membership of five hundred women is divided into committees on history, art and literature, science and education, and entertainment.



LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

MRS. S. L. WITHEY, Founder

MRS. ELIZABETH BALLARD THOMPSON, President

MRS. H. J. HOLLISTER, Representative Member

Each committee furnishes a programme for one afternoon in the month. The exercises for entertainment afternoon consist of plays, tableaux, music, and recitations. Whenever a fifth Saturday occurs in any month, it is called "president's day," and the president provides a programme at her discretion. During the year 1891 a system of study classes in connection with the regular club work was successfully introduced.

The study in classes represents parliamentary law, current events, a Shakespeare class, and a discussion class.

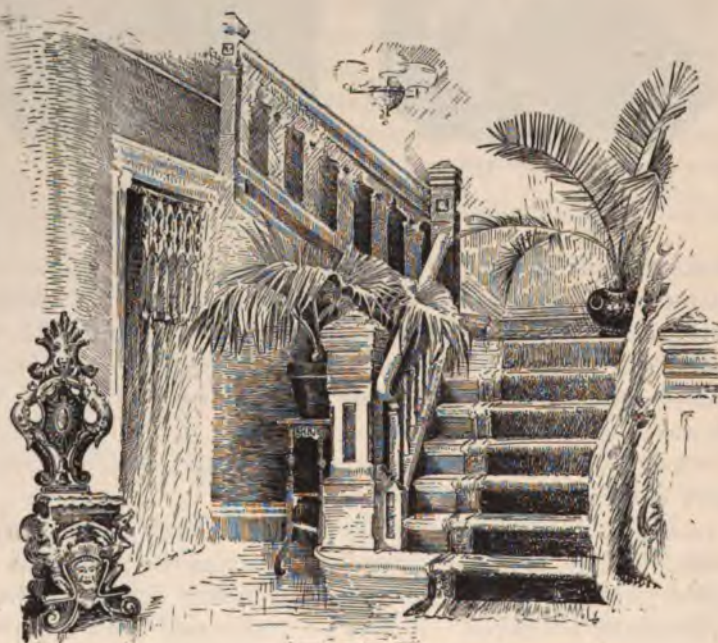
The Ladies' Literary Club confines its work strictly to the purpose of its organization; namely, study for general culture and the promotion of literary and scientific pursuits, finding this range sufficiently wide and the choice of subjects practically unlimited. It has no connection with any propaganda, is non-sectarian and non-political.



CLUB-HOUSE, LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

As the club augmented its numbers, the question of a commodious meeting-place became imperative. In December, 1886, the organization having acquired a large membership, a considerable yearly income, and a fund of enthusiasm, it was decided to purchase a lot centrally located, and to erect a building suited to present and future needs.

The corner-stone was laid with impressive ceremonies July 31, 1887. The house was dedicated December 31st of the same year. It is of the Italian order of architecture, the exterior plain. The materials are white brick and Ohio bluestone, with terracotta trimmings.



RECEPTION HALL, LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

The main entrance opens into a reception hall, with a broad, open stairway. At the left of the hall, and connected with it by sliding doors, is the library, finished in oak, well lighted, and lined with book-cases. A panel over the mantel bears the word "Books" in bold, carved lettering, encircled by the device, "Round these our pastimes and our happiness will grow." The library contains 1,500 volumes. It is connected by three sliding doors with the auditorium, which is also entered from the hall. At the opposite end is the stage, with dressing-rooms on either side. The woodwork is Norway pine. The dome-shaped ceiling is frescoed in delicate pinks and blues, with conventional figures and floral designs. A carved oak mantel occupies one corner of the auditorium. The rooms contain many objects of utility and ornament, the gifts of friends. The seating capacity is ample for at least four hundred persons, but will accommodate a larger number.

This is the first clubhouse erected by a woman's club.

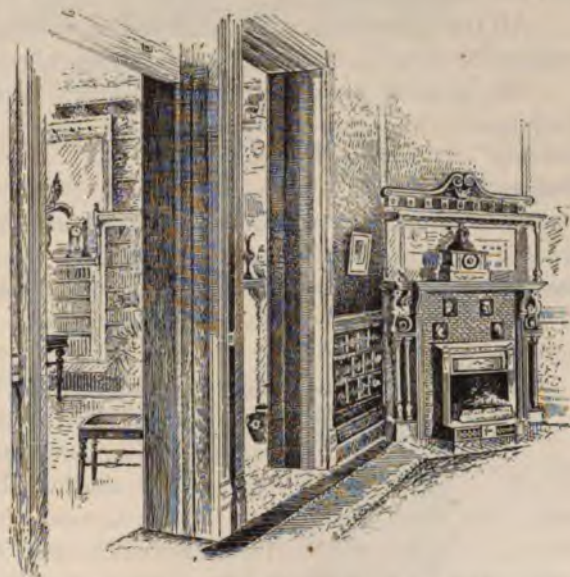
The Ladies' Literary Club is a power in Grand Rapids, and its influence in any given direction is strongly felt, though it does not ally itself directly with civic work.

A new departure was, however, made in 1894.

In the beginning of the year it tried the experiment for three months of keeping its commodious clubhouse open every day in the week, instead of on Saturdays only,

as before. The experiment was so satisfactory that the door has never been closed again. Since that time it is always open, heated, and cared for by a janitor, and freely used by the Ladies' Literary Club's members as the place of assembly for study classes, board and committee meetings, or for the meeting of groups by appointment.

A lecture committee was added to secure outside talent, and social occasions initiated, beginning with simple afternoon teas. These steps enlarged the membership, and greatly increased the influence of the club. For the first time, also, it was resolved to give of its literary abundance to the



A NOOK IN THE AUDITORIUM, LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

intellectually needy. One evening in each month was set apart for a meeting at which a selected programme was offered, and to which every member was allowed to bring some wage-earning woman too busy to make use of day opportunities.

Its presidents have been: Mrs. L. D. Putnam, Mrs. Marion Bliss, Mrs. S. L. Fuller, Mrs. S. L. Withey, Mrs. George C. Fitch, Mrs. H. J. Hollister, Mrs. J. C. Herkner, Mrs. A. J. Daniels, Mrs. Enos Putnam, Mrs. J. L. Powell, Mrs. J. Morgan Smith, Mrs. Loraine Immen, Mrs. J. C. Wenham, Mrs. L. P. Rowland, Mrs. Cyrus E. Perkins, Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson.

In 1891 the Ladies' Literary Club entertained the Association for the Advancement of Women, and celebrated the occasion by the publication of a souvenir, originally illustrated, and containing historic sketches of the club and the association.

All the gatherings were held in the club-house, and the exercises were among the most brilliant of the yearly gatherings of the association.

The present president of the Ladies' Literary Club is Mrs. Elizabeth Thompson, of Grand Rapids, whose paper upon "Reciprocity and Fellowship" laid the foundation of the reciprocity bureau in the General Federation.

Mrs. Thompson is also one of the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and received the honor of reelection as chief officer of the Ladies' Literary Club for 1898. The present membership (1898) of the Literary Club is five hundred women, with a waiting list of three hundred and fifty.

The St. Cecilia Society, of Grand Rapids, began in 1883, with the desire of a few devoted lovers of music to form a musical society whose work should be for the highest development in music. The result was a decision to unite and name the society the St. Cecilia; its object, the advancement of musical culture and mutual improvement. The society was incorporated under its present title, and its progress was rapid and continuous. For ten years the regular meetings were held in rented rooms in different parts of the city. In the seventh year of the society's existence the plan of bringing renowned artists to the city, and giving only members the privilege of attendance, resulted in a large increase of membership, which made more evident the discomfort and inconvenience of rented quarters.

In May, 1892, a lot was purchased, and the following month plans adopted. Work was at once begun, and the corner-stone laid November 6, 1893. On June 19, 1894, for the first time in the history of the world there was dedicated a building devoted to music and erected by women. This temple of music, which is named the "St. Cecilia," is Renaissance in style, built of stone,



CLUB-HOUSE OF THE ST. CECILIA SOCIETY, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

brick, and terra-cotta, and admirably adapted to its uses. It cost the society, including furnishings, \$53,000. Of this sum \$35,000 was borrowed money secured by mortgage.

The membership of the society, limited to eight hundred, is divided into three classes, active, student, and associate, the associate and student classes enjoying all the privileges of the society, with the exception of the ballot. The youngest child, if she be studying music, is eligible to membership, and the advantages to be derived from such a membership can hardly be overestimated. The regular meetings are held on alternate Fridays, beginning the first Friday in October and continuing through the year until the first Friday in June. The society, during the musical year, gives a series of artists' recitals, the number being determined by the state of the treasury. The officers of the society are president, vice-president, recording secretary, treasurer, and corresponding secretary, chosen annually by ballot. These, with five directors, constitute a managing board. The business meetings of the society



MRS. FRANK M. DAVIS,
President St. Cecilia Society,
Grand Rapids, Mich.

are reserved for Saturday, and do not interfere with the musical work. The St. Cecilia is justly the pride of this progressive city.

The officers for 1896-97 were: President, Mrs. I. W. Barnhart; vice-president, Mrs. C. H. Bender; recording secretary, Miss Clara Goodman; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. H. Sweet; treasurer, Mrs. James Campbell; and ten directors.

Shakespeare Study Club.—This club originated as a Shakespeare study group in 1891 in the Ladies' Literary Club. It acquired strength and importance from the reputation of its leader, Mrs. L. Immen, who stimulated enthusiasm in a very large class to a wonderful degree.

The meetings were held on the second Thursday of the club month. Each member was first required to write in her own words the story of the drama under consideration, to name all the characters in it, mention any purpose or motive supposed to be drawn from it, and commit to memory a favorite speech, quotation, or historic fact regarding it, and give in answer to roll-call.

The anniversaries were signalized by the presentation to each member of some interesting souvenir. On one occasion it was a rare picture of Portia, on another a charming picture of the Shakespeare fountain given to Stratford-on-Avon by George W. Childs.

The Igdrasil, of Grand Rapids, began as an Emerson class in 1890. In 1892 it organized as a club, elected officers, and enlarged its membership. It



RECEPTION ROOM OF ST. CECILIA SOCIETY, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.



STAGE OF ST. CECILIA SOCIETY, GRAND RAPIDS, MICH.

meets on the first Friday of each month, devoting the first Friday to studies of authors, the second to history, the third to education, and the fourth to a miscellaneous programme. Although the membership is only thirty-five, the attendance is often much larger, guests being always welcomed.

Much attention has been given to current topics under the miscellaneous list; and in answer to roll-call, each member gives a quotation in regard to the subject of the day.

The president is Mrs. E. B. Newton, the recording secretary of the city federation, and one of the originators of that body.

Within the membership is some of the best literary and musical talent in the city; and the aims are as wide and helpful as the tree to which it owes its name.

The Alsbee.—This progressive club was founded by seven ladies who met in the south room of Mrs. Immen's home on North Lafayette Street, November 27, 1894. Mrs. A. B. Botsford was made temporary chairman, and Mrs. I. M. Clark secretary. It was decided to form a society to promote conversation upon important events of the past and present, and discuss the possibilities of the future.

On December 11th five of the same group met to consummate their plans, adopt a constitution, and begin active work.

The name was coined by using the initial letters of the names of the originators. A constitution and by-laws were adopted, and officers elected.

Mrs. Immen was made honorary president; Mrs. Z. F. Botsford, president; Mrs. E. Arnold and Mrs. M. Shriver, the two vice-presidents; Mrs. M. Mosely, recording secretary; Mrs. I. M. Clark, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. Leathers, treasurer, and Mrs. L. B. Adams, custodian.

The membership increased rapidly, and committees were appointed upon art, literature, science and biography, to prepare programmes for club work.

The "conversations" are considered delightful. The subject of one was "Real Men and Women;" another on "Events That Have Changed the Course of the World's History." There was an "afternoon with flowers," and an authors' reception given to Rose Hartwick Thorpe.

The club membership is limited, and the work is of a refined and original character. The carnation is the flower; the colors, red and white; and the motto, "Be noble in thought and deed."

Grand Rapids City Federation of Women's Clubs was founded November 11, 1896, by a number of ladies who met at the home of Mrs. E. B. Newton to consider the feasibility and usefulness of such an organization.

*"In essentials, unity,
In non-essentials, diversity,
In all things, charity."*

As a result of that meeting, ten delegates met in the auditorium of the Ladies' Literary Club house on Wednesday afternoon, December 2d, adopted a constitution, and elected the following officers and directors: President, Mrs. Loraine Immen; vice-president, Mrs. H. J. Felker; recording secretary, Mrs. E. B. Newton; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. Weatherwax; business secretary, Mrs. Mary Bryant; treasurer, Mrs. C. N. Colwell; custodian, Mrs. E. A. Fletcher.

Letters of congratulation were read from Mrs. Emma Fox, president of Michigan State Federation; Mrs. Boynton, president of City Federation of Detroit, and from Mrs. Sleeper, of City Federation of Beloit, Wis. Mrs. Shroeder gave a fine recitation, and the exercises closed with singing "America."

The charter membership included the Ladies' Literary Club, the West Side Ladies' Literary Club, East Side Ladies' Literary Society, Alsibic, Shakespearean,



MRS. LORAIN IMMEN,
President City Federation, Grand Rapids;
Ex-President Ladies' Literary Club

Igdrasil, Froebel Club, Equity Club, North End Club, Avon Shakespeare Club.

Committees were formed on reciprocity, entertainment, lectures, programme, and club organization.

The Board of Directors consists of the general officers, and a representative from each club. Five delegates from each federated club may vote at any business meeting. Representatives from the different clubs contribute to the monthly programmes, and also to the entertainments for philanthropic purposes organized by the federation.

Officers are elected yearly by ballot. Annual dues are one dollar.

The discussions have been upon "Motherhood," preceded by a paper; "Arbitration," "Child Training," "The Education of the Hand," and "The Benefits of Women's Clubs."

A bureau of information keeps a list of clubs and club membership, that have special topics which they are willing to present at club or federation meetings.

The president, Mrs. Loraine Immen, is one of the most active and best known club-women in Michigan. She is a Shakespearean student and scholar, an ex-president of the Ladies' Literary Club, and the founder and honorary president of "Alsbicc," and the leader for many years of the Shakespearean class of the Ladies' Literary Club.

Mrs. Immen's address at the first annual meeting of the city federation was a *résumé* of the history of the clubs composing it.

"Man grows as higher grow his aims." **The Lansing Woman's Club.**—This fine old club, organized March 18, 1874, for "study and mental improvement," has enjoyed an uninterrupted career of prosperity down to the present time.

The high character of the club has been largely attained and maintained by its single-mindedness, its close adherence to its original aims, and the unselfish devotion of its early members. At first limited to twenty-five, its roll-call now comprises upwards of sixty active and fifty "retired" women. No drones and no unkind criticism have been unwritten laws. The founder of the club was Mrs. Harriet A. Tenny, formerly State librarian, who brought trained energy and an unselfish spirit to the service of the young organization,



A CORNER IN THE AUDITORIUM



THE HOME OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB, LANSING, MICH.

whose beginning was also aided by Mrs. Judge Bagley and Mrs. L. H. Stone.

The first meetings took place at the home of Mrs. E. Longyear; and Mrs. Tenny was chosen temporary chairman. Mrs. Bagley, by invitation, made an address upon the formation and work of a woman's club. On May 29th a constitution was adopted, which divided the membership into four committees—art and literature, science, history, and education.

At first the programmes were of a desultory character, prepared for three months in advance by the Executive Committee. In the second year, 1875, it was planned to study the history of civilization, beginning with Egypt, and devoting one or more years to each of the following countries: Greece, Rome, England, France, Holland, Germany, Spain, and the United States; and this

was carried on most thoroughly and systematically, the carefully arranged printed programme being prepared by a committee appointed for the purpose.

In 1889 the club voted to build a home for itself. The mysteries of incorporation, bonds and shares for a business company were successfully solved, and the club now owns a substantial two-story brick building, the first floor of which is leased for business purposes. The second floor is occupied by the club assembly and committee rooms, handsomely decorated and cosily furnished with grates, pictures, etc. The property is valued at \$6,000, and is centrally located. The business affairs of the club are managed by a board of nine directors, elected annually.

Rotation in office is practised, except in regard to the corresponding secretary. That office in 1896 was held by Mrs. Matilda Howard, who had held it twelve years, being



MRS. HARRIET A. TENNY

then in her ninety-third year, and still able to write a most clear and beautiful letter. In testimony of her services Mrs. Howard was made honorary corresponding secretary, and her duties were largely relegated to the federation secretary.

The Lansing Woman's Club was the first Michigan club to join the General Federation of Women's Clubs in 1892. By its invitation the meeting of clubs delegated to organize the Michigan State Federation was held in Lansing, March 20 and 21, 1895. It also invited the eight other women's clubs of the city to join in forming a city federation for mutual acquaintance and for the promotion of the educational interests of the city.

The twentieth anniversary was a most delightful occasion. It was celebrated at the home of Mrs. B. F. Hall. Among the guests were Mrs. Governor Rich, Mrs. C. L. Eaton, Mrs. H. A. Tenny, Mrs. George H. House, and Mrs. A. R. Thayer, of Saginaw; Mrs. Savage, of Chicago, and Mrs. J. F. McElroy, of Albany, N. Y.

The club also owes much to Mrs. Ellen L. Westcott, now deceased, and to Mrs. Irma T. Jones, one of its earliest members, and late State president. The officers for 1896-97 were: President, Mrs. Ella W. Smith; vice-president, Mrs. Maria Howell; recording secretary, Mrs. Emma C. Watson; honorary corresponding secretary, Mrs. Matilda W. Howard; federation secretary, Mrs. Lilah E. Elder; treasurer, Mrs. Jennie C. Sleeper. The president preceding was Mrs. Isabella E. Ranney, long connected with every active interest of the club.

The first meeting of the State federation was held in Lansing by invitation of the Woman's Literary Club; and the meetings of the Board of Managers not infrequently take place in the rooms of the capitol occupied by the State librarian, Miss Mary C. Spencer. Lansing has ten or more clubs, the majority organized for study purposes, or have grown out of classes.

The Unity Club, of Lansing, began on somewhat different lines. It started



MRS. MATILDA HOWARD,
For Twelve Years Corresponding Secretary of the Lansing
Woman's Club

in October, 1895, with a meeting of twenty-six ladies at the home of Mrs. Irma T. Jones. The object was to bring together upon a broad basis the women on the east side of the river, and the organization was perfected in November by the adoption of a constitution and the election of permanent officers. The constitution included as a basis of membership, "independence of sects, parties, and social cliques; earnestness of purpose, love and truth, and the practical consideration of the questions that grow out of the relation of the individual to society."

Annual dues are one dollar; but the benefit arising from the club is said to be "without money and without price."

Meetings are held on alternate Friday evenings for the convenience of teachers; and the work has been on scientific, historical, and biographical lines, with discussions of new books and current events.

The Ladies' Library Association, of Schoolcraft, was organized in 1879 with twelve members, which have increased to forty. It has a well-selected library, but until 1896 no building. A few hundred dollars, secured by popular subscription, was expended upon a lot; and the generosity of a former resident of Schoolcraft, now living in Brooklyn, N. Y., has resulted in the fulfillment of desire for a library and a club home.

A literary club grew out of the association, which, beginning with the study of English history, took up Egyptian and Grecian history, under the direction of Mrs. L. H. Stone.

Not only events were studied, but men, and the rise and development of the Grecian nation through the lives of its illustrious poets, historians, statesmen, philosophers, and artists, and the cause of its decline and fall was sought by a study of the men who constituted the state. Since that time two years have been spent on miscellaneous subjects, one on German history and one on United States history during the first half of the nineteenth century.

The Ladies' Reading Club, of Niles, was one of the first seven federated clubs in the State. It was organized in 1882 for the purpose of reading intelligently and for general culture. It worked quietly, but to good purpose. The first three years were spent in the study of the "British Poets." Becoming more ambitious, the club decided to take a full and complete course in English literature. When Shakespeare was reached, two years were devoted to the works of this master.

The later work has been in American literature since its foundations were laid at Harvard College in 1636.

One of the early methods resorted to by the club was the adoption of an "ignorance book." In this questions were placed to be answered. The

answers were often ingeniously woven into sketches, which were a source of pleasure and profit.

The club motto, "And I come after gleanings here and there," is as a household word to each member as she gleans a little useful information here and there.

The anniversaries have been delightfully celebrated, often with original features. Upon the occasion of the tenth, 1892, the programmes were issued with hammered tin covers, and decorated with narcissus, the club flower. The hostess of the occasion was Miss Helen E. Coolidge, the president; Mrs. F. M. Gray was the vice-president, and Mrs. W. N. Kendall the secretary and treasurer.

Other anniversaries have been memorable in bringing together the honorary members—Mrs. W. N. Kendall, of Muncie, Ind.; Mrs. E. G. Waldron, of South Bend, Ind.; and Mrs. Orson McKay, of Chicago—in the bright addresses of the members and the witty toasts.

The originator of the club and its first president was Mrs. A. M. Hunt, now of Chicago, whose home was its first meeting place.

Among the presidents have been Mrs. Virginia Millard, Mrs. F. M. Gray, Miss H. E. Coolidge, Mrs. J. A. Montague, Mrs. C. A. Chapin, and Mrs. Hunt.

The Literary Society of Bridgewater.—This interesting neighborhood club was founded in January, 1885, by the efforts of a few farmers and their wives, who organized with a president, vice-president, and secretary.

The club includes both old and young, and has never attempted any special courses of study.

Its programmes have been of a miscellaneous character, and the meetings held on alternate Monday evenings at the home of some one of the members.

In 1896 a new departure was made by electing a second vice-president, and a committee to arrange a programme. Since that time the exercises have consisted of some special bit of biography of an author or noted person, with a description of his home, or some place made memorable by his work; with literary and musical selections by local talent.

The society has also made good use of one of the State travelling libraries, and the work done is assuming a higher and more settled literary character. The social value of this club in the community is not confined to members. Its influence is widely beneficial both to men and women.

The Muskegon Woman's Club was organized October 24, 1890, with thirty members. Its object was the promotion of literary and scientific cul-

<p><i>"Dare to be what you are, and learn to resign with a good grace all that you are not."</i></p>	<p>ture; and it soon increased to one hundred active, earnest workers, each one of whom was expected to perform her share of the work. It soon obtained the reputation of being one of</p>
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MUSKEGON WOMAN'S CLUB, MICH.

MRS. J. B. McCracken, President

MRS. J. L. MURRAY, Ex-President

MRS. L. N. KEATING, Ex-President

the most scholarly and progressive women's clubs in Michigan; and study classes were formed for younger members which made a specialty of Shakespeare's plays, under the name of the Avon Study Class, and a class in current events.

The club has always been hospitable as well as studious; and it once entertained members and guests by the production of a Shakespearean drama handsomely staged and performed by club members.

It holds an annual "reciprocity" day, when the papers are furnished by neighboring clubs, and the members of these clubs are its guests.

In every way during the years of its existence the club has taken front rank as an influential force in the community.

In 1893 it joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and in 1895 became a charter member in the State federation.

It meets weekly on Friday afternoons, and works under committees—literary, musical, dramatic, and press.

"India" was the general topic for 1896, pursued with a thoroughness that characterizes the club work.

The federation secretary is Mrs. Martha A. Keating, a devoted worker.

The officers of 1896-97 were: President, M. Elizabeth McCracken; vice-president, Nellie M. Nims; recording secretary, Emma V. Boynton; corresponding secretary, A. Miriam Wood; treasurer, Ella M. Kingsbury.

The Lakeside Club, of Manistee, grew out of a small sewing society which met for years, but became in time by natural process of evolution a woman's club. *"In all things supreme excellence."*

The founder and first president was Mrs. E. B. Fairfield, and the work excellent.

The club motto is: "In all things supreme excellence"; the club flower, the carnation, which signifies perfection; and the club color, colonial yellow.

There is another club in Manistee—the **Anti-Gossip Club**. The membership is limited, but each one is privileged to bring a guest. There are no officers, but the membership is composed of bright women who often appear at the "Lakeside" and at its annual banquets.

A third club is **Current Events**, which has six members. It is a conversation club, and does its work orally.

The Saginaw Federation of Clubs was organized in 1887, and a glance at its membership shows the names of the best known of Saginaw clubs. The list comprises Saginaw Reading Club, Saginaw Woman's Club, Saginaw Art Club, Current Events Club, Bay View Club, Monday Reading Club, Carpe Diem Club, Tuesday Club, Euterpean Club, Polyhymnia Club, Research Club.

The first is the oldest woman's club in the city, and has sixty active and fifty associate members. It has pursued the study of history of the nations through its entire existence. The present president is Mrs. Arthur Barnard, a bright, progressive woman, active in many movements. The Woman's Club, under the presidency of Mrs. A. R. Thayer, is doing good work in Egyptian history and along educational and scientific lines. It has fifty active members and a large associate membership. The Saginaw Art Club, organ-



MRS. E. B. FAIRFIELD,
Founder and First President of Lakeside
Club, Manistee, Mich.

ized in 1886, has done perhaps the best work in art of any club in the State, is now using a fine stereopticon, purchased last year in England, in the study of architecture. This club is very popular, as its one hundred and twenty associate members attests. Miss Winnifield Smith has for a long time been its efficient president. The Euterpean and Polyhymnia are women's musical clubs with literary features, and are both doing much to educate the community in the higher music.

The other clubs in the city federation, though smaller, are all alive, and high their beacon light of culture. The Tuesday Club shares its treasures with a membership of fifteen, who are this year studying France, under the leadership of the president, Mrs. W. H. Coats. The Monday Reading Club has for its subject South America and miscellaneous literature. President, Mrs. W. D. Trump.

The Saginaw Federation, with Mrs. Anna A. Palmer for its president, is organized with a view to promoting in the city the unity and effectiveness of clubs. Mrs. Palmer is also president of the Michigan State Federation.

The Research Club, Mrs. Hemmerich, president, is pledged to study and is now studying Germany, and the Bay View Club has taken for its work the "Bay View" programme, which is similar to that of Chautauqua. The Carpe Diem Club, though small, has done much for its members along the line of literature; while the Tourist Club, Mrs. Sanborn, president, travels on paper the year through. The Current Events Club has Miss Helen Plumb for president; its name indicates its line of work.

The Tuesday Club was the first woman's club organized in Jackson. It was founded as a literary class in the autumn of 1879, with a membership of sixteen. For five years it worked as a literary class under an instructor. In 1883 a constitution was adopted, and an organization effected which merged the class into the Tuesday Club. The membership was limited to forty, and Mrs. Henry Kellogg elected president.

For five years more the club pursued systematic studies in history and literature, with leaders chosen from the membership. 1891 closed with the usual annual banquet, which was an "apple-blossom fête." "Early Civilization" had furnished the topic for the year; the work had been most profitable under the direction of an untiring president, Mrs. Sarah C. Bloomfield.

"The Victorian Age" was the subject for 1892, with a newly elected leader, the system of government demanding rotation in office.

For 1895-96 the studies were under the general head of "Municipal Government and Reform." The subject was admirably developed and accompanied by an exhaustive and referential bibliography.

The president for that year was Mrs. H. O. Bedell, and the divisions of the subject were arranged by Mrs. J. H. Pilcher, Mrs. J. M. Rost, and M. R. De Puy.

The first study was given to "Primitive Self-Government," "Rise and Development of Ancient Cities," "Municipal and Community Administration in Switzerland," "A Consideration of Industrial Communes," "The 'Initiative' and 'Referendum,'" "The British System and its Large Cities" brought the subject nearer home to American city government; the "Causes of Municipal Corruption," "Reforms Needed in the Fundamental Law for the Government of Cities."

There is a great deal of musical talent in the club, and concerts have been arranged for Christmas and other occasions which are fine enough to attract a paying audience, the selections being from Handel, Liszt, Gounod, Augusta Holmes, and Scarlatti. "The Holy Night," on one of these occasions, was given with harp, violin, and organ, by Mrs. Robinson, Miss Corlett, and Miss Stoddard.

The Mosaic Club, of Jackson, was organized in 1886. It was formed with a charter membership of twenty-five ladies, for study purposes, and also, for free interchange of thought by discussion. Before the close of the first year the membership was enlarged to thirty-five, "Greek art" being the topic selected for work.

Subsequent years were spent upon English and German history and literature; four of the afternoons being given to special cities, and always half an hour to a topic of the time.

One winter Mrs. L. H. Stone gave a course of lectures upon art; but a marked feature has been the constantly increasing quantity of personal work done by the members.

The "Mosaic quartette" is the musical feature of the club, and is asked to contribute to entertainments for charities.

There are nineteen afternoons during the club year for club work; the twentieth is "President's day," which comes in Easter week, and closes with a banquet.

An annual calendar is prepared with programme and list of officers.

One of its active presidents was Mrs. Lucy C. Bancker, corresponding secretary of the Michigan State federation.

The Tourist Club was founded in 1888, with a charter membership of twenty-seven. The object was to take up a continued course of travel, such an one as might be projected by intelligent people, who, taking the countries

of the Old World in succession, had leisure to examine *en route* the literature, political conditions, government, habits, and customs of the people, history ancient and modern, topography—in fact, to master every available point of interest.

After six years of this continuous "touring," during which Ireland, Scotland, England, Scandinavia, Russia, Germany, Switzerland, Belgium, Holland, and France were visited, the need of a change was felt. The plan of work was therefore altered somewhat, and half of the time at each club meeting devoted to papers and talks upon topics of more vital interest nearer home.

In this way, scientific, labor, and philanthropic questions could be discussed. Among the subjects have been "Household and Social Economics," "Sanitation," "Biology," "Our Country's Political Life," "American Educational System," "Syndicates and Monopolies," and "Women as Reformers."

The membership in 1896-97 was thirty-three; the president, Mrs. Mary D. Armstrong.

The Woman's Club, of Mendon, was organized in 1889. The founders had just completed the Chautauqua course of reading and study, and decided to take up an independent line of work, and form a club organization on more diversified lines, and with the coöperation of a large number.

The first years were given to travel through Russia, South America, and some of the Eastern countries.

The studies of people and places were absorbingly interesting, and were varied by Russian and Japanese teas, exhibitions of stereopticon views to illustrate work, musicals, and annual entertainments.

The club grew and flourished. It now works under the departments of literature, art, and science. It has permanent rooms always open to members. It belongs to both State and General Federations, and has always interested itself in the larger as well as the more local club life.

The Woman's Club of Traverse was organized in 1891 with fifty-five charter members. The object of the club as set forth in the constitution is "The advancement of its members in the knowledge of literature and current events; the discussion of social problems, and the promotion of good will toward each other, and the world."

It would seem from the latter clause that the club was undertaking a good deal, but it is always best to have a high ideal.

The club has the usual officers, and meets every two weeks from the first

Friday in September to the latter part of June. The elections are held at the last meeting, when the president delivers an address, and a banquet follows, with toasts and a good time generally.

The membership is not limited, and at the present time (1897) numbers one hundred and four. The Executive Committee consists of all the officers, who transact all the business, leaving the regular meetings free for literary exercises.

The club has four divisions—literature, history and biography, science and education, art and expression. The latter takes the place of the entertainment division of previous years. The chairmen of these divisions con-



MRS. M. A. S. ROBERTS,
First President of Woman's Club of
Traverse City, Mich.



MRS. J. A. MONTAGUE,
President of Woman's Club of
Traverse City, Mich.

stitute the programme committee. They lay out the work of the year, choose subjects, and appoint leaders for each day. These leaders select their own assistants.

Special committees are appointed by the president.

With the exception of the history division, no particular line of work has been followed, but a great variety of subjects have been discussed. One year an occasional "Housekeeper's Day" was very helpful; household topics were discussed, and the members exchanged recipes and ideas.

The science and education division has done good work on social and sanitary subjects; the history division spent two years on the study of English history, during which time the literature division studied the authors

of the same periods. The art and expression division gives musical and dramatic programmes; days with artists, illustrated by their works; and one very charming programme was on ceramics, with beautiful specimens of different kinds of pottery. Sometimes meetings are held in the evening, when the gentlemen are invited and always gladly come. At these times a varied and entertaining programme is provided, and light refreshments are served.

One marked improvement over the early work is the number of original papers presented; thereby adding greatly to the interest of the meetings. The plan of having short discussions follow the reading of the papers has been adopted where the subject admits of so doing, and these discussions are very free and interesting. In this way, too, each member can take some part if she chooses.

In connection with the club there are study classes in physical culture, household economics, and parliamentary drill. The club has also for some time sustained a reading-room in one of the factory districts, which has been well patronized.

One excellent feature of the club is the number of good magazines taken. There have been some lectures, but these have not enriched the treasury, though the members may have profited.

Much of the success of the club is due to the character and efforts of the presidents, of whom there have been three in the six years of club life. Mrs. M. A. S. Roberts, one of the founders, was the first president, and held the office two years. Her successor, Mrs. J. L. Gibbs, held the chair three years, and Mrs. J. A. Montague, also one of the founders, now (1897) occupies the position.

The club colors are white and yellow. The club flower, the white carnation; the motto, "Thought is the property of him who can entertain it."

As a club, the Woman's Club of Traverse is in line with every movement that tends to elevate woman, and, through her, the home and society.

M. K. B.

The Purist Conversazione, of Petoskey, is unique and interesting. The originator, who is its president, was Mrs. M. S. Connable, and it was incorporated March, 1895, for the promotion of literary pursuits, and especially the art of conversation. Primarily, the study has been of language, the use and derivation of words, ease and elegance in conversation, and conversation as an art.

The rules of pronunciation of the vowel sounds of the English language as adopted by the Purist Conversazione are as follows:

Italian a as in father; Italian a, short in quantity, as in ask; modified short a as in matter; short in quantity, slight approach to long a; short o as in not; broad as in naught, short in quantity; modified short o as in soft;

short in quantity, approaching long o ; long u as in duty, an obscure y preceding the u, the vowel fully pronounced.

Soft or vowelized r at the end of words and syllables, modifying the vowel sounds as follows : a, as in care, far ; e, as in mere, her ; i, as in fire, fir ; o, as in ore, for ; u, as in urn ; ea, as in earn ; y, as in myrrh.

All erroneous pronunciation of languages, faults of grammar, the improper use of words, catch-words and tricks of manner, the uttering of inarticulate sounds between the words of a sentence, restless motion of the hands, rocking or reclining in chair, correcting oneself when speaking or reciting, violent or unnecessary gesticulation, indistinct utterance, apologies following or preceding the imperfect performance of work assigned, are regarded as breaches of etiquette, and the member so offending as out of order.

All unmeaning or idle conversation, all unkindly criticism of the absent, all innuendoes or insinuations, all unnecessary comment on the actions or motives of others, are regarded as breaches of conversational etiquette, and of the principles of the club.

It is incumbent upon each member to call any member to order, at any time, who may be violating the rules, at any meeting of the Purist Conversazione.

The departments in the study of language are three ; English, French, and German. To each of these is dedicated a flower. To the German, the light red carnation ; to the French, the pink carnation ; to the English, the variegated carnation. The flower of the club is the white carnation.

Three vice-presidents preside over these departments in language.

In 1897 the Conversazione enlarged its borders, keeping its primary object and original departments intact, but appointing committees upon topics relating to the home, science, art, literature, philosophy, and education.

The department meetings are weekly, but there are quarterly conferences of the whole club, and an annual reception or banquet, to which all contribute, to which guests are invited, and which is made beautiful by department decorations.

A fine reference library has been established, divided into the library union and the library exchange. A loan library is connected with these.

The Board of Directors, from which the officers are chosen, except the president, are elected, by thirds, annually. The president must be familiar with all the languages used in the club, and the choice, therefore, has unanimously and continuously fallen upon the able and scholarly founder, who possesses a refined and delightful personality, and is a woman of very broad intelligence, Mrs. M. S. Connable. Her efforts along the line of intellectual growth and development in the community have been very effective.

THE MICHIGAN STATE FEDERATION

The Michigan State Federation was organized in Lansing, on March 20, 1895, in response to a call issued by Mrs. L. H. Stone, chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

One hundred and four delegates, representing seventy women's clubs, assembled in the Sunday-school room of the Baptist church.



MRS. ANNA A. PALMER,
President State Federation, 1898-99

The presence of Mrs. Stone, the venerable "club mother," was felt as a benediction; and when she rapped for order, and spoke her brief words of greeting, the thrill of an influence that had been felt for good by the women of Michigan for half a century, went through the entire assemblage.

Mrs. Irma T. Jones, of Lansing, was chosen temporary chairman, Mrs. Ada Iddings Gale, of Albion, temporary secretary. A committee on credentials, composed of Mrs. Emma B. Carroll of Grand Rapids, Mrs. Martha E. Root of Bay City, and Mrs. Lucy Bancker of Jackson, were appointed. An address of welcome was read by Mrs. Wardwell, of the Lansing Woman's Club, in the absence of the president, Mrs. G.

E. Ranney. The response to the address was made by Mrs. Walter Hughes, of Grand Rapids.

After the report of the Committee on Credentials, and roll call of delegates, a Committee on Resolutions was appointed, consisting of the following ladies: Mrs. Farr, of Grand Haven; Mrs. H. A. Cooke, of Grand Rapids; Mrs. Hine, of Detroit; Mrs. Yapple, of Mendon, and Mrs. Keating, of Muskegon.

A platform meeting was held in the evening at the capitol, which was addressed by Mrs. Martha E. Root, of Bay City, and Mrs. Delia Robb, of Jackson. Representative Hall was beautifully decorated for the occasion, and a vocal quartette added its charms to the exercises. An informal reception followed in the executive parlors, Mrs. Governor Rich, Mrs. L. H. Stone, Mrs. S. L. Smith, and Mrs. N. B. Jones forming the reception committee.

Thursday was spent upon the constitution and by-laws, and the election. The first officers were: President, Miss Clara Avery, of Detroit; vice-president, Mrs. N. B. Jones, of Lansing; recording secretary, Mrs. Kate E. Ward, of Lansing; corresponding secretary, Mrs. L. Immen, of Grand Rapids; treas-

urer, Mrs. Martha E. Root, of Bay City. Directors for one year, Mrs. L. H. Stone, Kalamazoo; Mrs. E. C. Brooks, Grand Rapids; for two years, Mrs. Anna Palmer, Saginaw; Mrs. James O'Donnell, of Jackson.

The convention closed with a reception given at the home of Mr. and Mrs. O. M. Barnes; but many of the delegates remained over Friday, to be present at a regular meeting of the Lansing Woman's Club. This was an opportunity greatly coveted and enjoyed. One hour of the time was given to impromptu remarks from visiting delegates; and the visit formed a fitting close to the loving labors and festivities of the preceding days, "blest by the smiling skies of Michigan."

The second annual meeting of the Michigan State Federation was held in the First Congregational Church in Detroit, November 3, 4, and 5, 1896, by invitation of the Detroit Federation of Clubs. This club of clubs proved itself an ideal hostess. There was a genuine post-office, a check room, a rest room, an ample dining-room, a bureau of information, and a telephone put in for the occasion.

On Tuesday evening, the programme included an address upon "Michigan Women and the University," Eliza M. Mosher, M.D., professor of hygiene and Woman's Dean of the University of Michigan; and "The Individual Factor in Social Regeneration," by Rev. Caroline J. Bartlett, pastor of People's Church, Kalamazoo.

Other addresses during the sessions were upon "Michigan Travelling Libraries, Their Value and How to Get the Benefit of Them," by Mrs. Mary C. Spencer, State librarian, Lansing; "The Success and Failure of our Public Schools," by Mathilde Coffin, assistant superintendent of public schools, Detroit; and "Organic Education," by Harriet M. Scott, principal of Detroit Normal Training School.

Mrs. Frances G. Boynton, president of the Detroit federation, introduced the president of the State federation, Mrs. Irma T. Jones, of Lansing. Mrs. Jones responded, and introduced Mrs. Boutell, president of the Detroit Woman's Club, who gave a most cordial and interesting address.

The summarized report of federated clubs contained the following interesting statistics:

Total number of club women in federation, 4,359.

Total amount of money received yearly by clubs, \$5,990.95.

Ages of clubs, from one year to twenty-five.

Membership, from sixteen to one hundred and fifty.

Annual dues, from 25 cents to \$5.00.

Two city federations, Detroit and Jackson, and one State organization, the M. W. P. A., are in the State federation.

Cities containing more than one federated club: Detroit, Grand Rapids,

Jackson, and Lansing, five; Saginaw and Charlotte, three; Kalamazoo and Hudson, two.

Aims, general intellectual culture and social advancement.

Having libraries, twenty-two—one, the Kalamazoo Ladies' Library Association, has four thousand volumes.

Taking magazines, twenty-two.

Presenting work by papers and talks, fifty-nine; by papers alone, five; by talks alone, four.

Topics given at one meeting: in seventeen clubs, one; thirteen, two; nineteen, three; ten, four. Some present as many as six topics at a single meeting.

Noting an increasing ability and freedom in discussion of papers, fifty-one. Having limited membership, thirty-four. Limits range from twenty to one hundred.

Meeting in club-rooms of their own, fifteen; in homes of members, thirty; in rented rooms, eight; several meet in church parlors, guild rooms, etc.

Meetings are held weekly and semi-monthly, by far the larger number meeting weekly.

Doing outside work, philanthropic, educational, or municipal, thirty.

Thirty-five have given public or other entertainments, including twenty-six lectures, two lecture courses, eighteen musicales, ten receptions, six banquets, ten socials, a number of literary, dramatic, and art entertainments, and one peace entertainment.

There are now eighty-one federated clubs, fourteen having joined the federation at Detroit. The number of federated club women in the State must now reach nearly five thousand.

There were one hundred and twenty-nine registered delegates at the meeting in Detroit, and more than twice that number of visiting club women.

Thursday morning was given to the action of the Revision Committee of the constitution, and to miscellaneous business.

The exercises of Thursday evening were preceded by the reading of a federation poem, written by M. E. C. Bates; and consisted, in addition to the fine music, which was a feature of the entire convention, of three addresses. The first, by Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, on the "Practical Value of Federation to the Individual Club"; "Home Science and the Public Schools," by Edith F. McDermott, professor of household science, Michigan Agricultural College, and "The New Social Ideal," by Mrs. Florence Kelley, State factory inspector of Illinois, Hull House, Chicago.

The social feature of the convention was a brilliant reception given by the Detroit Federation to the delegates and visiting club women. But there

were also many smaller hospitalities in the way of "open houses," luncheons, and afternoon drives.

The standing committees for 1897 were appointed upon programme, club organization, lecture courses, household economics, and legislation.

The Committee on Resolutions presented the following:

Whereas, We, as women, are deeply interested in everything that pertains to the welfare of children, and as citizens we realize that the public school is second only to the home in its influence upon individual life, therefore,

Resolved, That the Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs pledges its united effort to the support of all that is good and the eradication of all that is bad in the public school system of the State.

Resolved, further, To accomplish this end we will visit the public schools in our home cities, and study educational questions with reference to local conditions, and endeavor to secure the election of disinterested members of boards of education.

Resolved, further, That each club in the federation be asked to report at the next annual meeting upon some special phase of public school work which may be particularly interesting to it, because in line with the special work for which the club was organized.

Resolved, further, That the federation authorize the president to name a committee of three or five, whose duty it shall be to advance by all possible means the interests of women at the University of Michigan; and,

Whereas, We have at heart the legal as well as other interests of women,

Resolved, That the Board of Managers of the M. S. F. W. C. appoint a committee whose duty it shall be to look after all measures brought before the legislature pertaining to women.

Resolved, That it is the sense of this meeting, the Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs in convention assembled, that the State insane asylums and all public institutions where women and girls are detained should have upon their staff women physicians of experience and ability to have charge of the women patients and inmates of said institutions.

The following were the officers elected for 1897: Honorary president, Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, Ph.D., Kalamazoo; Mrs. Emma A. Fox, president, Detroit; Mrs. Anna A. Palmer, vice-president, Saginaw, W. S.; Mrs. Frank



EMMA A. FOX,
President Michigan State Federation,
1896-7

E. Withey, vice-president, Manistee; Mrs. Florence I. Bulson, recording secretary, Jackson; Mrs. Lucy W. Bancker, corresponding secretary, Jackson; Mrs. Mary L. Ambler, treasurer, Northville; Dr. Mary A. W. Williams, auditor, Eaton Rapids; Mrs. Clara W. Raynor, director, Adrian; Mrs. I. M. Turner, director, Grand Rapids; Mrs. Irma T. Jones, director, Lansing; Mrs. Josephine M. Gould, director, Owosso.

The third annual meeting of the State Federation of Michigan occurred in November, 1897, by invitation of the Reading Club and eleven other clubs of Saginaw.

This convention proved to be the most successful one the federation had ever held. The tact and ability of the presiding officer, Mrs. E. A. Fox, were exhibited in the smooth and rapid transaction of business and the admirable arrangement of a fine programme. One hundred and fifty-eight women represented ninety-seven clubs as delegates. The Committee on Organization reported about nine thousand club-women in Michigan, who carry as their motto, "The higher education and uplifting of womankind," of whom four thousand are in the federation. The federation convened in the auditorium of the Masonic Temple, and on Wednesday evening, at the opening meeting, it presented an inspiring scene, when three hundred of the brightest women in Michigan, representing nearly four thousand members of the various literary clubs of the State, were gathered together, with a large number of Saginaw's most intelligent and progressive citizens. The rostrum was a bower of beauty beneath a profusion of flowers, palms, and growing plants, while Old Glory was draped on the wall as a background. A bevy of lovely girls acted as ushers, performing their duties in an unobtrusive and graceful manner. Upon opening, Mrs. Arthur Barnard, president of the Saginaw Reading Club, presented to the audience Mrs. Eliza R. Sunderland, Ph.D., of Ann Arbor, who in an impressive manner offered the invocation, after which a most cordial address of welcome was given in behalf of the eleven clubs at Saginaw by Mrs. Sallie T. Barber. She said in part: "Allow me to present you to your hostess, Madame Saginaw, who has honored me by placing me here to greet you. Her homes, her clubs are all at your service: we are all yours; and we feel that you have rendered her a service by your presence. We hope you will carry away pleasant memories when you leave, and you can count on a welcome and good cheer while here." She said that Saginaw was an Indian name, and had been referred to by "Longfellow, who wrote of Gabriel having his lodge on the banks of the Saginaw." Her people were proud of the ancestral name, of the heroism of Saginaw's pioneers, and of its gradual evolution; of how immense fortunes had floated down upon its river, and of its intelligence, growth, and progress. The response by the president was given in a few brief but happy words, after which she sounded her gavel,

and declared the third annual meeting of the Michigan State Federation of Women's Clubs opened, and invited to the platform the officers and ex-officers of the federation, and the first vice-president, Mrs. Palmer, of Saginaw, to the chair.

The president then delivered her address. In closing it she said: "The opinion is often expressed that to the women of our country belonged the ethical and intellectual ideas and to the men the sordid and grasping ones. This is an injustice, for while men were grappling with the world and looking with a great measure on the material side of life, is it not with the desire to help wife and family at home?"

After a musical selection an eloquent address was delivered by Mrs. Sunderland, of Ann Arbor, upon the subject, "The Educational Work of Women's Clubs." It was replete with important facts concerning the education of the women of our country, and of the vital importance of the educational work of women's clubs. She said: "In 1787 the first school was opened for girls in Boston, and they came in such numbers that very soon other schools had to be provided for them; still as late as 1823, only about seventy-five years ago, the school board of Northampton, Mass., was a defendant in a suit brought to compel the board to give the girls seats in school. Now one-half of the students of colleges and of all the higher institutions of learning in this country are women, while only fifty years ago, only one-half of one per cent. were students. In our own State university, women," she said, "last year took one-half of the degrees conferred." Mrs. Sunderland was of the opinion that women's clubs should become responsible in a measure for the education of the world's empire; that "women's clubs should do post-graduate work." In closing, Mrs. Sunderland dwelt on the good work accomplished by the women's clubs throughout the whole country; she said they had brought a leaven into the home life, relegating gossip to a back seat by furnishing worthy subjects for conversation and thought, thereby brightening the home life and bringing happiness and knowledge to many.

The closing feature of the evening's literary programme was a paper by Mrs. Anita Newcomb McGee, M.D., of Washington, D. C., "On a Woman's Name."

Wednesday morning the session was devoted almost entirely to business. Mrs. Francis Burns, the Lady Commander of the Lady Maccabees, of Michigan, brought fraternal greetings to the federation and its guests. Upon the entrance to the meeting of the honorary president of the federation, the venerable Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone (lovingly called the mother of Michigan clubs), she was invited to the platform; thereupon she was given the Chau-tauqua salute by the assembly.

The Legislative Committee recommended that women be appointed on boards of asylums for the insane, on the State Board of Education, State Board of Corrections and Charities, and that women physicians be employed in all public institutions where women are inmates. The committee to advance the interest of women in the University of Michigan reported that an effort had been made to have women appointed as regents of the university, but it was found that under the State law only voters could be legally elected to such office.

The Committee on Credentials reported ninety-seven clubs represented, and twelve new clubs admitted to the federation.

The afternoon meeting was opened by the president, who said it would be a Michigan afternoon. The first paper on the programme, given by Mrs. Sarah W. George, of Ypsilanti, was entitled, "Michigan: the Romance and Heroism in Its History." That this paper was of unusual interest was proved by its general discussion and the many interesting facts with which it was supplemented by a large number in the audience. Following this came an address on "Our Educational System," so valuable and scholarly as to interest every one. This address was given without notes by Mrs. J. F. Pease, of Big Rapids.

"The Relation of Women to Our State Charitable Institutions," by Mrs. J. E. St. John, of Lansing, wife of the superintendent of the Industrial School for Boys, was a paper of unusual merit. Mrs. St. John said that "there are twenty State boards in Michigan, and ten of them are partly composed of women, and that such coöperation has proved very successful where it has been tried."

On Wednesday evening occurred the social event of the session, the reception given by the Saginaw Reading Club to the federation and its friends, at the West Side Club house. It was a brilliant and delightful occasion, worthy of the club-women of Saginaw. The spacious rooms were beautiful in their profuse and artistic decorations, and with ease accommodated the eight hundred and upwards of guests present. The soft tones of music, the perfume of flowers, the murmur of glad voices, and, above all, the intelligent, smiling faces, made the scene an ideal one.

On Thursday morning the officers for the coming year were elected: Honorary president, Mrs. Lucinda H. Stone, of Kalamazoo; president, Mrs. Anna A. Palmer, of Saginaw; first vice-president, Mrs. Martha A. Keating, of Muskegon; second vice-president, Mrs. Frank E. Withey, of Manistee; recording secretary, Mrs. Florence I. Bulson, of Jackson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Robert Patterson, of Detroit; treasurer, Mrs. Mary A. Ambler, of Northville; auditor, Mrs. Stiles Kennedy, of St. Louis. The other members of the board for the year are Mrs. N. B. Jones, Lansing; Mrs. J. M. Gould, Owosso; Mrs. Belle M. Perry, Charlotte, and Mrs. Flora L.

Beadle Hastings, directors. The delegates to attend the biennial meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, to be held June next at Denver, Colo., are Mrs. Anna A. Palmer, of Saginaw, as president of the federation; Mrs. Emma A. Fox and Miss Clara A. Avery, of Detroit; Mrs. J. F. Pease, of Big Rapids, and Mrs. N. B. Jones, of Lansing. The alternates are: Mrs. Sallie T. Barber, of Saginaw; Mrs. Belle M. Perry, of Charlotte; Mrs. Francis Mosier, of Hillsdale, and Mrs. Andrew Howell, of Detroit. Manistee was chosen as the place for the next annual meeting of the association.

The treasurer reported the federation to be in a good financial condition.

On Thursday afternoon the following papers were given: "The Relation of the Club to the City," Mrs. Florence M. Dunning, Battle Creek; "How Shall a Busy Housekeeper Find Time for the Club?" Mrs. Jessie B. McKinney, Sault Ste. Marie; "How Shall a Busy Club-woman Find Time for Housekeeping?" Mrs. Ida F. W. DeLano, of Saginaw; all were followed by discussion.

On Thursday evening an able address on "Hospitality" was given by Dr. Denny Grace Dowling, of Muskegon. The evening's literary programme closed with an illustrated lecture on "Art for Women's Clubs," by Miss Anna Caulfield, of Grand Rapids.

After a musical selection the retiring president presented the officers of the federation for the coming year to the audience assembled. Then the gavel fell, and the presiding officer, Mrs. Fox, declared the annual meeting adjourned.

A valued feature of Michigan State Federation work is "federation day" in August in connection with the summer university courses at Bay View, perhaps the most delightful spot in northern Michigan. Bay View Assembly has gathered there for twelve years, and is the Michigan Chautauqua. The State federation is given the use of its auditorium and smaller halls on a given date, and prominent club-women not only gather from the different parts of Michigan, but the wilds beyond, even as far as New York and Boston.

Mrs. Henrotin, Prof. M. Louise Jones, of Kansas; Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz,



MEETING PLACE OF MICHIGAN STATE FEDERATION, BAY VIEW

Mrs. Croly, and others, from near and far, have participated with State and local leaders, and hosts of visiting club-women, in the stimulus of a summer outing in an atmosphere uniting all that is desirable in human companionship with the beauty of lake and mountain.

The value of these gatherings is not in the presence or contributions of noted personages, but in the opportunity afforded for cultivating local club fellowship and becoming acquainted with local club methods. Annual State conventions must be more or less formal and occupied by "business." The summer meetings, on the contrary, have more or less of a holiday character, and the perfunctory part of club life is, and should be, excluded from them.

The Michigan State Library has performed an important work for the study clubs of the State in publishing a bulletin (1896) containing records of upwards of one hundred such clubs, with selected programmes from all sources for their use. The Michigan State Library shares with New York the honor of having put the resources of the library work at the disposal of clubs doing serious educational and study work, registers them, and sends them travelling libraries in connection with the university extension movement.

The record of the State federation for 1897 shows the whole number of clubs in the State to be 214, of which 97 are in the federation.

These clubs, federated and unfederated, represent 103 towns, cities, and villages. Detroit leads with 19 women's clubs; Saginaw, 15; Grand Rapids, 14; Jackson, 13; Lansing, 11; Petoskey, 7; Bay City, 5; Kalamazoo, 4; Ypsilanti, 4; Owosso, St. Joseph, 4; Charlotte, 3; Hudson, 3; Mamaminee, 3; fourteen towns 2 each, viz., Battle Creek, Berrien Springs, Cadillac, Caro, Eaton Rapids, Edwardsburg, Flint, Hartford, Hillsdale, Lapeer, Manchester, Mt. Clemens, Sturgis, Tecumseh. Fifty-four were organized either as clubs or associations previous to 1890—the Ladies' Literary Association, of Kalamazoo, in 1853; Ladies' Literary Club, of Grand Rapids, 1873; Woman's Club, of Lansing, 1874; Ladies' Athenæum, Lexington, 1878; Lapeer Tuesday Club, 1878; St. Cecilia Society, Grand Rapids, 1883; Hudson's Friday Club, 1883; Hart Ladies' Literary Club, 1885; Tourist Club, Jackson, 1888. Twenty-nine clubs were founded in 1894, 33 in 1895, and 26 in 1896—88 out of the whole number of 160 formed since 1890.

The Woman's Club Movement in Minnesota

STATE FEDERATION



MISS MARGARET J. EVANS,
President Minnesota State Federation

TRULY in these last days of the dying century we do not need miracles. We may agree (though with a different basis for our reasoning) with the eminent scientist who says so emphatically, "Miracles cannot happen." We no longer need them, for we are learning the value, nay, the actual experiences of inspiration. The Divinity, wise and almighty, who holds us ever in His protecting arms, in the fulness of His time, is sending impulses and wonderful ideas into the hearts and minds of the women of to-day, so that they, following out the plans suggested by these impulses, are really becoming nobler creatures and better equipped for the battle of life. The State federation movement has seemed such a heaven-sent inspiration. Where the thought first origi-

nated I do not know, but a long train of blessings has followed the speedy progress it has made. In our beautiful State the growth has been so sure, so swift, so wonderful, that in the two years of the federation's existence, its branches reach far and wide through all our districts, joining country and city clubs into a close and sisterly whole.

When Mrs. Henrotin, in June, 1894, wrote to Mrs. Hector Baxter, then State correspondent for the national federation, and asked, "Do you think that you have clubs enough in Minnesota to form a State federation?" Mrs. Baxter's answer was in the affirmative; and in November Mrs. Henrotin wrote

again, saying she would visit the Twin Cities in December, and hoped to meet a number of club-women to discuss this subject. A circular letter was sent by Mrs. Baxter to the president of each club of the State which had already joined the national federation (eight or nine) and of other clubs in the vicinity of the city. Later in the summer Mrs. Baxter wrote to Miss Sanford, of the university; to Mrs. Cohen, Minneapolis, who had been in charge of the literary department of the Minnesota Board at the World's Fair, and to the many postmasters in the State, soliciting from all information about the different women's clubs of the locality. From these painstaking efforts



MRS. L. C. LORD,
Woman's Club, Moorhead, Minn.

Mrs. Baxter obtained much knowledge of far-away clubs, and to all of them she sent the letter recommending the federation movement, and suggesting that they should send delegates to meet Mrs. Henrotin in Minneapolis December 10, 1894.

The idea was, I am sure, a new one to the clubs in the smaller cities and villages. There were many things for some of these clubs to seriously consider before the final steps could be taken. The distance from the cities where the meetings would probably be held was the main objection. The writer was at that time president of the Chautauqua Ladies' Social Club in St. Peter, and after laying the question before the members, who discussed it thoroughly, it was finally, and with enthusiasm, decided to join the federation, joining it anew as the Woman's Literary Club of St. Peter when the Chautauqua course was finished.

On the afternoon of December 10, 1894, a preliminary meeting was held in one of the parlors of the West Hotel in Minneapolis. Business began at two o'clock, Mrs. Baxter being elected chairman. Mrs. William B. Folds stated the object of the meeting, and introduced Mrs. Henrotin, who spoke most earnestly and clearly on State federations. Then it was moved that a State federation be formed in Minnesota, and after much discussion the motion seemed almost lost. At this critical point, however, a brave woman saved the day. Mrs. Livingston C. Lord, of Moorhead, strong with the strength of the cause for which she was working, arose and said: "I have been sent from my club with instructions to vote for a State federation, and I am not willing that action should be postponed." A vote was at once taken, and the motion triumphantly carried. The matter was then left to a

committee on permanent organization, Mrs. S. B. Bangs, of Duluth; Mrs. A. H. Snow, of Winona; Mrs. Crays, of Minneapolis; Mrs. D. R. Noyes, of St. Paul, and Mrs. L. C. Lord, of Moorhead. The meeting then adjourned, subject to call from this committee.

From the report of the secretary I find that the committee on permanent organization met at the West Hotel in Minneapolis, December 11, 1894, Mrs. Bangs presiding. Mrs. Lord was elected secretary. Members present—Mrs. Bangs, Mrs. Lord, Mrs. Crays, and Mrs. Snow; Mrs. Baxter, State correspondent for national federation, was also present. The subject of a constitution and by-laws was discussed, and the matter was left in the hands of Mrs. Bangs. The unanimous choice of the committee for president of the federation was Miss Margaret J. Evans, of Northfield. The committee, after much discussion, decided that clubs which are doing social, literary, artistic, and scientific work should be eligible for admission. It was also decided to send a circular letter and a copy of the constitution and by-laws to each club in the State. In the evening of this day, which meant so much for the future of Minnesota club-women, a reception was given to Mrs. Henrotin at the Public Library Building, and there Mrs. Henrotin suggested to the committee an additional committee on a programme for the first annual meeting. This made the federation a real, a living thing. A programme could not be made out without members to take the appointed parts, and so, after much thoughtful effort, much earnest work, the Minnesota State Federation of Women's Clubs came into existence.

A meeting was called for Thursday, April 25, 1895, at two o'clock, in Minneapolis; and thirty-four persons were present. Mrs. Dennis Follett, of St. Paul, was elected chairman, and Miss Clara Hill secretary.

Mrs. Bangs submitted a form of constitution and by-laws which was discussed and adopted with some amendments. The following officers were elected: Miss Margaret J. Evans, president; vice-president, first district, Mrs. Webber; fourth district, Mrs. Follett; fifth district, Mrs. Conant; sixth district, Mrs. W. S. Woodbridge; seventh district, Mrs. Comstock; corresponding secretary, Mrs. S. F. Brown, of Minneapolis; recording secretary, Mrs. H. L. Stark, St. Peter; treasurer, Mrs. L. B. Bangs, Duluth.

The meeting adjourned, leaving the place and exact date of the annual meeting undecided; but shortly after, Miss Evans sent out a statement that "the first annual meeting of the Minnesota State Federation of Women's Clubs would be held at the West Hotel, in Minneapolis, beginning on Tuesday, October 29, 1895, at two o'clock, and closing on the following Wednesday evening." Miss Evans also prepared, as a response to many inquiries, a statement about the uses and benefits of the federation, in which this subject is fully and clearly presented, and which closes with a cordial invi-

tation to all clubs, not already in the federation, to be present at this first meeting as visitors.

First Annual Meeting.—*The Women's Council Magazine* for August-September, 1895, gave the programme arranged by the following committee: Mrs. Charles E. Conant, Minneapolis; Mrs. G. B. Eanney, St. Paul, and Mrs. Helen Terinies, of Stillwater, seconded by the vice-presidents of the federation, and a local committee of arrangements consisting of one member from each of the Minneapolis clubs represented—Mrs. O. P. Carter, Current Events; Miss Hill, Nineteenth Century; Mrs. M. B. Willett, Tuesday Club; Mrs. John Clark, Coterie, and Mrs. Lucian Swift, Columbian Study Class. The central thought decided upon by this committee was this: "What club work has done for us, and what we as club-women have to do in the future."

Bright and cold that twenty-ninth day of October dawned. As soon as one entered the corridors of the West Hotel, one knew the success of the meeting was assured. Miss Evans presided with a graceful ease which at once endeared her to the many earnest women who waited for her words of encouragement and advice. The scene was a beautiful one. Behind the platform where Miss Evans, Mrs. Brown, and Mrs. Stark sat, skilful hands had

arranged a background of green, kindest of Nature's colors. Golden chrysanthemums and flowers of russet hue, suggestive of the time of year, were placed with lavish generosity about the room—and the room was crowded. Every session showed the same full attendance, and close attention was shown to the excellent reports and papers which were given. Delegates from seventeen clubs were present, and the club dues were fixed at two dollars yearly. There was necessarily much business to transact; but it was done, and well done. On Tuesday afternoon an informal reception was given at the home of Mrs. S. F. Brown, and on Wednesday afternoon the Women's Council met the federation at the public library. The social ease which prevailed at these receptions showed that the barrier between the out-of-town and the city members was broken down.

Three subjects received particular attention from the federation: "The Relation of the Club to the Public School," "The Formation of Free Libraries," and "Town and Village Improvement Work."



MRS. SUSAN FAIRFIELD BROWN,
First Corresponding Secretary State Federation of Women's Literary Clubs,
Minnesota

Good papers upon these subjects were presented, full of practical ideas, and there has been freer discussion upon the school question than upon any other subject. Northfield is giving special attention to town improvement, and at this place, and also at Rochester, the clubs have started and are maintaining rooms for the comfortable entertainment of women and children from the country. The babies are looked after, and the tired mothers can rest. The rooms are well furnished, and luncheons may be eaten at well-appointed tables, while tea and coffee may be prepared if wanted. A literary programme is given monthly at Northfield to the visitors, and the club employs a woman to attend to the rooms.

At Rochester the club members divide this latter duty among themselves. The merchants and citizens contribute small sums towards the support of the rooms, and a committee collects the amounts when due.

The Anoka Philolectian and the St. Peter's Literary Club have been active in organizing public libraries, which are now in a flourishing condition. The Anoka Library is the older one, and has been very well managed. The club at St. Peter had the additional obstacle in its way that the city charter provided for no library, and the State law in such a case demands that the matter be placed by the city council before the citizens, who decide the question by a two-thirds vote. Much hard work was done, but the election was carried, and the library was turned over to the city in April, 1895.

The Woman's Club at Sleepy Eye, encouraged by these successful examples, organized a library in this town. It may be said incidentally that of the sixteen free public libraries in Minnesota, fourteen have been organized by women.

To return to our meeting, it is unnecessary to say that the earnest and thoughtful words of our president's address fell upon heedful ears. It was a most excellent address, and the work done during the past year has proved we did not listen in vain.

At the close of the meeting the Committee on Resolutions adopted as the federation colors russet and gold—"russet as it symbolized the ripening of all our aims and attainments, gold as the perfection of the same; and we also recommended that, since we are the North Star State, an appropriate design for a badge would be a gold star the size of a dime, to be yellow, and to be attached to the bottom of the General Federation badge, which has russet at its base; upon the pin to be engraved the word Minnesota, and in the centre the letters W. F. C." Mrs. Conant, of Minneapolis, designed this little badge, which is made of silver, with gold enamel and russet letters.

An invitation was received from the Stillwater clubs, offering their hospitality to the federation for the second annual meeting, in October, 1896. This invitation was accepted, and the meeting adjourned, pledged to meet at

a federation breakfast in St. Paul in February. It does not seem to me wrong to call this meeting an inspired one; there was such a hearty welcome given. Such lovely music, such beautiful flowers were there, that the helpful words and the new ideas seemed far above the ordinary ways of our commonplace lives. We were helped, encouraged, and lifted out of the monotony which will come upon the best of us. I am speaking from the standpoint of an out-of-town woman, and I know from my talks with other members like myself that the federation to us means a great deal more than would appear to a casual observer.

The first federation breakfast was one of the happiest happenings of the year. About two hundred and fifty women sat down to breakfast at the Ryan Hotel in St. Paul, and enjoyed our menu as much as men would have done under the same circumstances. There was wit sparkling through the speeches, and every woman there pledged herself and her energies freshly to the interests of the federation.

Second Annual Meeting.—At the beginning of October, 1896, the federation had grown from seventeen to fifty-five clubs, and there gathered in the Presbyterian Church, at Stillwater, on Tuesday, October 6th, a band of delegates from all over the State. The most elaborate preparations were made to receive us, and we felt at home as soon as we saw, done in russet and gold, the magic "Welcome" which greeted us on entering the church. This time Mrs. Henrotin was with us, and we had the pleasure of hearing her expressive words of wonder at the prosperity and extent of our federation, and her rejoicing at the goodly number of club-women assembled to carry on the work. Miss Evans was pleased; we knew and felt it, and we tried to show her, as it was right and fitting to do, that the work which has been done, and all our prosperity and unity, have come largely from her efforts and her interest in what we were trying to do.

The same central thought adopted last year, influenced also this year's programme, and a most interesting series of papers and talks were given. One new feature was a parliamentary drill, by Mrs. M. B. Lewes, of Minneapolis. This was not only interesting, but of great service to many club members whose opportunities for parliamentary usages have been chiefly derived from books. We are also brought near to the national federation by a review of the biennial meeting, told by Miss Evans, and by a paper on the relation of the State and General Federations as seen at Louisville by Miss Martha Scott Anderson. Here, again, in Stillwater, music, flowers, and a reception greeted us. We drove around the beautiful city, and, to quote our president, "It seemed as if God's hills were decked in our own colors of russet and gold to give us a royal welcome." The reports of the various committees showed good progress, and many clubs had sent two delegates,

as well as numerous visiting members. The session was longer, too, this year, an additional morning being necessary to accommodate the larger number of clubs represented. The discussions were freer, and already one could tell the difference a year had made. It is a difficult matter for the average woman to speak aloud her thoughts, however well she may think them, and this faculty of expressing one's ideas clearly, brightly, and, above all, briefly, is one of the valuable lessons the federation is teaching its daughters. These daughters, too, are not all women of a riper age. We have charming young girls with us, and it is a delightful thing to see these dear young women, modest and blushing, face an interested audience and expound good, sensible ideas and tell of practical work done by the younger club-women. Not a whit does it detract from their modesty. It broadens them, it teaches them to think, it makes them less eager to rush headlong into matrimony simply for the sake of being a married woman. Would that this work had been begun long ago, for I believe it is only now that the real, true woman is finding herself, and when she has done this, she will be a yet greater treasure to her husband, her place in life, and her home. I think a deeper spirit of inquiry was with us this year. Young as we are, we are beginning to realize the work before us, and the increasing interest of delegates was manifested as each subject was presented. One thought from the many given us by Miss Evans was this: "A good club-woman is first of all a good neighbor. She rises superior to her own personal feelings, and works for the good of the many, not for herself." Also she told us: "That a club taking the name of its city, necessarily pledges its work to the community." It was resolved to have a federation breakfast in Minneapolis, similar to the one of the previous year in St. Paul. Invitations were received from Duluth and St. Paul for the next annual meeting, the latter, on account of its easier accessibility, being accepted.

And so ended Minnesota's second gathering together of her loyal women working for "unity in diversity." The cause is good, its influence has already spread with an unexpected rapidity, and of the future we have no fear, for women are accustomed to work under difficulties, and that which helps to solve life's problem and makes the way easier for the younger feet to tread is what they have to-day resolved to do, and the federation will teach them the easiest and the best way to find the light.

MARY VANDEVER TOMLINSON.

St. Peter, Minn.

The constitution of the Minnesota State Federation is brief and clear. It provides that clubs applying for membership shall show that no sectarian or political test is required, and that while distinctively humanitarian move-

ments may be recognized, the chief purpose is not philanthropic or technical, but social, literary, artistic, or scientific culture.

The general officers are elected for one term of two years, but no second term is allowed; the officers to be chosen from the whole body of membership of the federated clubs of the State.

Standing committees were formed on reciprocity, Mrs. A. C. Theopold, Faribault, chairman; education, Mrs. T. K. Gray, Minneapolis; town and country clubs, Mrs. W. B. Fowler, Rochester; town and village improvement, Mrs. A. E. Giddings, Anoka; libraries, Mrs. C. E. Conant, Minneapolis; art interchange, Mrs. H. E. Ladd, Minneapolis.

Work recommended to the local clubs by the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs:

1. The establishment of town and country clubs, to provide rest-rooms for the country women while in town, and to promote intercourse between women of the town and of the country.
2. The fostering of public libraries and efforts to secure travelling libraries for the State.
3. Town and village improvement work to increase beauty and cleanliness.
4. Coöperation with the public schools to secure the best sanitary and intellectual conditions, and especially to secure moral instruction in the schools.
5. Fostering of the Minnesota Art Interchange to provide clubs with photographs, stereopticon slides, and books for the study of art.

Charter Members Minnesota State Federation.—Philolectian Club, Anoka; Literary Class, Magazine Club, Duluth; Fortnightly, Hamline; Nineteenth Century, Current Events, Current Events and Literary Club, Tuesday Club, Columbian Study, Coterie, Minneapolis; Woman's Literary Club, Merriam Park; Woman's Club, Moorhead; Monday Club, Northfield; Ladies' Reading Club, Stillwater; Woman's Literary Club, St. Peter; C. L. S. C., St. Paul; Art Class, Winona.

The third annual meeting of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs opened on Wednesday, October 27th, at 2 o'clock, to close on Friday evening, October 29th. The Park Congregational Church in St. Paul had been chosen as the place of meeting, and being large and well lighted, the beautiful flowers and stately palms used in decorating it showed to much advantage. The federation was called to order by Miss Evans, and Mrs. Adamson, of Merriam Park, asked for the power of the Most High to bless our work. Then Miss Evans spoke a few sincere words of greeting, followed by the reports of officers. These showed the growth and strength of the clubs. To the clubs of last year have been added thirty, so that eighty-one clubs represent the State federation. When it is remembered that some of

these have over one hundred members, and most of them at least thirty, it will be seen that the influence is an aggregation of force not to be lightly regarded. When three thousand women work for the same good end, though using different methods, the attainment of that end is almost sure.

The constitution of the federation recognizes no sect or creed in religion; its object is "to bring the women's clubs of the State into communication for acquaintance and mutual helpfulness." The wisdom of this clause was apparent from the papers. Mrs. W. B. Fowler, of Rochester, reported as chairman of the Committee on Town and Country Clubs. To Minnesota belongs the credit of the first town and country clubs, and though the idea has been developed in different ways in the several places where the clubs are formed, yet the results are widely successful. Rochester and Northfield have done the best work in this direction.

Mrs. Theopold, of Faribault, reported for the Reciprocity Committee. This work has been systematized for the first time in Minnesota, and is most satisfactory. It has demonstrated the usefulness of coöperation among clubs, and a general improvement in the various club programmes sent to the committee. Short reports from tourist clubs, which were prefaced by an able outline of "Club Journeys," read by Mrs. F. A. Ingals, of Dodge Centre, finished the session.

In the evening a reception to the federation members was given by the Commercial Club, of St. Paul. Mrs. Dennis Follett and Mr. Jesse Gregg, president of the club, welcomed the many guests, and Miss Evans responded in behalf of the federation. The rooms were finely decorated, and a most enjoyable musical programme was arranged, after which the "creature comforts" were well cared for.

Mrs. A. E. Giddings read the first paper of the Thursday morning session, her subject being a most interesting one, "Municipal and Town House-Cleaning." Mrs. Giddings says truly "that women are especially well adapted to start the ball rolling toward universal cleanliness." In conclusion the speaker urged the passage by the next legislature of an act setting aside, at certain places in the State, parts of pine and oak forests to be preserved at State expense as parks. A discussion followed which showed how town and village improvement ideas are prospering. The library interests of Minnesota were presented by Mrs. G. H. Ranny, of St. Paul, in a thoughtful paper which gave many interesting facts in regard to this work. The clubs especially supporting the maintenance of public libraries, Anoka, St. Peter, Sleepy Eye, all reported continued success. "Literature as a Fine Art," by Miss Sophie Grove, of St. Paul, proved an excellent introduction to the reports from the clubs studying literature. It is a marked feature of progress that all the reports from clubs are given more fluently and with less hesitation than formerly.

A symposium on the club and the home received a warm welcome. Mrs. Masterman, of Stillwater, gave the first paper, "Reciprocity between Club and Home," followed by "Housekeeping and Home-making as a Science and as an Art," in two papers, read by Mrs. Rupley, of Duluth, and Mrs. Channing Seabury, of St. Paul. Then came "Household Economics—Its Place in Women's Clubs." The symposium closed with an address on "The Work of the Mothers' Clubs," by Mrs. Margaret Yapp, of St. Paul. The thought running through all these papers was the same: "The secrets of home-making are patience and endurance; the ability to conceal the drudgery of housekeeping, and over all to throw the brightening influence of gentle humor."

Certainly one who listened heedfully could say within herself: Woman has found her work! Her home, her husband, children, and friends; her community, libraries, schools, churches, all demand her aid. The federation is teaching her how to give this aid in a coöperative way, so that by the conservation of her energy (so often misplaced and overtaxed) she may be able to better fill her important place in the world.

The Household Economic Association, of Minneapolis, is doing a work whose value can scarcely be judged by one not a member. They gave an excellent report, showing their methods of work, and invited the federation to come to a mass meeting to be held in Minneapolis.

At the close of the afternoon session the Plymouth C. L. S. C., of St. Paul, gave a reception in the parlors of the church. This hospitality was most charmingly extended, and greatly appreciated by the numerous guests. The opening address of the evening was given by Mrs. Ella E. Lane-Bowes, of Chicago. "Industrial Schools" was her subject, and the speaker urged most strongly that the States should make an effort to introduce this important factor into the public schools on a much larger scale. Mrs. Edith M. Conant, of Wells, gave the next paper on "Art in Every-day Life." It was full of helpful ideas and clear, bright thoughts. She said that art was needed in every-day life, because its ennobling influence is felt by the mother, and through her by the children, thus softening the cares and anxieties that come to every home. The section relating to art was continued by Mrs. H. C. Burbank, of St. Paul, who read "An Object Lesson in Art," with the moral clearly pointed out that America is far behind in art interests, but that the future in this direction is hopeful. Then came, at last, but so well worth waiting for, the "Message of the Year," by the president. The large audience listened with rapt attention, and at its close we felt we had in Miss Evans a tower of strength and an ideal woman for our leader. The address gave a brief but graphic outline of the federation work, noted the progress made, and dwelt especially upon the educational work of Minnesota as it brings us

into closest touch with the General Federation, which has sent out circulars bearing upon educational subjects through its national committee, Miss Evans being chairman of this committee.

The greatest problem, Miss Evans said, which now offers itself to the State federation is how to unite all moral forces—Roman Catholics, Protestants, teachers, superintendents, school boards, mothers, sisters, men—in one grand movement to secure for the millions in the public school definite and regular instruction in morals and so secure higher moral character. Then she spoke of the position of the various teachers in the communities where they taught, often coming as utter strangers to take up the responsibilities pertaining to their positions. "Is not more due socially from club-women to the teachers in the public schools for their very work's sake?" Miss Evans suggested that more hospitality be shown to those to whom we entrust our children the greater part of each day, and also that as Minnesota has women serving on school boards, ought we not to go further and ask for one or two women on the Board of Regents of the State University? With her closing words echoing in our hearts, the session ended, "and we say, 'it is our purpose that where women rule, the grace of the moral world shall touch the material world to give something of its own fineness, and redeem the gross business world from the low ideas that govern it.'"

The Friday morning session was opened by Mrs. E. A. Whitford, of Hastings, who read a paper upon "Women's Interest in Current Questions." This was followed by reports from clubs, and by a paper entitled "One Year's Work in Sociology," by Miss McGiffert, of Duluth. Mrs. Leach, president of the Women's Council in Minneapolis, then spoke briefly and clearly on the "Relation of the Minnesota Women's Clubs to the General Federation." Miss Martha Scott Anderson, of Minneapolis, recommended for her committee that five delegates be selected to attend the national convention at Denver. The delegates nominated were Miss M. J. Evans, Mrs. C. E. Conant, Mrs. J. C. Buchanan, Mrs. J. P. Washburn, Mrs. Dennis Follett; alternates, Mesdames T. K. Gray, H. A. Tomlinson, W. B. Fowler, A. E. Giddings, and S. G. Comstock. The report was adopted. The election of officers closed the morning session. The ballot gave the following result: President, Miss Margaret J. Evans, Northfield; first vice-president, Mrs. M. B. Webber, Winona; second vice-president, Mrs. H. A. Tomlinson, St. Peter; third vice-president, Mrs. H. C. Theopold, Faribault; fourth vice-president, Mrs. Dennis Follett, St. Paul; fifth vice-president, Mrs. H. F. Brown, Minneapolis; sixth vice-president, Mrs. A. E. Giddings, Anoka; seventh vice-president, Mrs. L. C. Lord, Moorhead (each vice-president represents the clubs of her congressional district); recording secretary, Mrs. J. L. Washburn, Duluth; auditor, Mrs. Charles E. Conant, Wells.

At the afternoon session an invitation from Winona to meet in that city in October, 1898, was tendered, and accepted unanimously.

The Minneapolis clubs kindly offered their hospitality to the federation at a mid-winter social function in their beautiful city, the date to be arranged later. This courtesy was also accepted with enthusiasm.

Mrs. J. Tuller, of Fargo, president of the North Dakota federation, presented the greetings of her clubs. She spoke briefly, but said the women of Minnesota had been, by their example and courage, a great help to their sisters of Dakota.

After the presentation of the new officers to the Federation, Miss E. E. Kenyon, of Minneapolis, gave an address on the "Value of Historical Work to Club Women." Miss Kenyon has had vast experience in her work, and her words made a deep impression upon her hearers. After the reports from history clubs came a discussion on the clubs and the schools, led by Mrs. T. K. Gray. To the average woman there is no more interesting subject than this, and the eagerness with which the discussion was carried on and the many ideas suggested proved that, as in the last convention, the educational interests of the State were being strongly supported by the club women.

On Friday evening Mrs. A. P. Washburn, of Duluth, gave a most interesting paper on "The Sense of Personal Responsibility." Mrs. Elaine Goodale Eastman, of St. Paul, spoke on "The Mother Element in Progress," and Miss Ella Young, of Albert Lea, gave her ideas on the "Correlation of Educational Forces." These three papers, full of vigorous thought and illustrations of our obligations to each other, formed a fitting and womanly close to the excellent programme of the convention. Perhaps they inspired also the State Superintendent of Schools, Mr. W. W. Pendergast, who spoke upon "What the Schools Ask of the Clubs." His remarks received close attention, and showed that the thoughtful, progressive men of Minnesota are proud of the work the club-women are doing, and that they are glad of the help so rendered.

One cannot but admit, in considering this federation work, so ably begun and so well carried on, that such gatherings of women are becoming each year a more important factor to study and to respect; and the work, too, is broadening each year. The Committee on Resolutions recommended the appointment of a State committee to further the study of household economics, for the purpose of promoting throughout the State a more scientific knowledge of home-making. Also that a State committee be appointed to further the establishment of mothers' clubs to cooperate with the Educational Committee. The president suggested a committee to urge upon the next Legislature the necessity of passing a bill enabling women to be eligible to vote upon all questions concerning libraries.

Mrs. Giddings, of Anoka, presented a memorial upon forestry for the consideration of Congress. The resolution in full was adopted by the federation, and the Improvement Committee selected to carry out its provisions.

During one of the sessions a letter from Mrs. Henrotin was read. She expressed much interest in our welfare, and gave a general outline of the work now being done by the national and State federations.

The Art Interchange Committee—Mrs. Burbank, St. Paul; Mrs. Rankin and Miss Martha Scott Anderson, Minneapolis—had on exhibition some of the work they had done during the year. Dozens of beautiful pictures were shown as an example of what can be done. In Mrs. Burbank's paper, "An Object Lesson in the Study of Art," she gave a graphic sketch of use and abuse of art. The pictures were for the use of the public schools. The committee had carefully selected them, mounted them, arranged them in convenient portfolios, and the result is a history of art, easy to learn and remember, and a feast for the eyes and for the mind of incalculable benefit. Another lesson was the flax exhibit made by Mrs. Oldberg, showing how this industry may be made more profitable and of greater use than it is. Minnesota, being a flax-growing State, may well be interested in this special work.

At all the meetings music given freely by the women of the city was a delight and a charm. Surely it is most fitting that music and palms and the sweet fragrance of many flowers should be where women who are striving for better things are gathered together to drink of that knowledge which Tennyson says—

"Is now no more a fountain sealed;
Drink deep, until the habits of the slave,
The sins of emptiness, gossip and spite
And slander die."

MARY VANDEVER TOMLINSON.

Resolutions offered by the Educational Committee of the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs, at its third annual meeting held in St. Paul, October, 1897.

I. WHEREAS: We, the club-women of Minnesota, are deeply interested in all that pertains to the physical, moral, and intellectual well-being of children, and realize that the school is second only to the home in its influence on the life and character of the child—therefore,

II. *Resolved*, That the Minnesota Federation of Women's Clubs affirms its warm interest in all educational questions of the day, and desires to further, in every way in its power, all efforts looking to improvement of our already excellent public school system.

III. *Resolved*, further, That the Minnesota Federation is in entire sym-

pathy and accord with the suggestions and plans of the Educational Committee of the National Federation, as set forth in their circulars, and desires to assist in the carrying out of the same.

IV. *Resolved*, further, That in order to give tangible proof of our interest, as individuals we agree that we will, as often as possible, visit the public school in our immediate vicinity. That we will study educational questions with reference to local conditions, and that we will endeavor to secure the election of competent and trustworthy persons as members of our Boards of Education.

Resolved, further, That we earnestly recommend to each club in the federation, that they interest themselves in some phase of work for the benefit of the public schools, especially in line with their own work, and report practical results at the next annual meeting of the federation.

Mrs. Thomas Kennedy Gray,
Mrs. William B. Thompson,
Mrs. Conan C. Ames,
Education Committee.

The officers for 1897-98 are: President, Miss Margaret J. Evans, Northfield; district vice-presidents, Mrs. M. B. Webber, Winona; Mrs. H. A. Tomlinson, St. Peter; Mrs. H. C. Theopold, Faribault; Mrs. Dennis Follett, St. Paul; Mrs. H. F. Brown, Minneapolis; Mrs. A. E. Giddings, Anoka; Mrs. L. C. Lord, Moorhead; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. E. Conant, Wells; recording secretary, Mrs. J. L. Washburn, Duluth; treasurer, Mrs. E. G. Butts, Stillwater; auditor, Mrs. George H. Ranney, St. Paul.

The standing committees are upon improvement, reciprocity, programme, education, badge, town and country club, art interchange, libraries, household economics, mothers' clubs, amendments to State convention, and historical record.

At the thirty-fifth annual meeting of the Minnesota Educational Association, which met at St. Paul, December 28th, 29th, and 30th, the principal part of one day (Wednesday) was given to a programme arranged by the Educational Committee of the State Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. T. K. Gray, chairman. The papers were followed by general discussion by the association, and the day closed with a reception given by the State federation to the members of the State Educational Association and the Associated School Boards.

The State Federation of Minnesota has issued a very complete year-book for 1898. Thirteen standing committees are recorded, the majority list of which has been given.

The work recommended to the local clubs is:

1. The establishment of town and country clubs, to provide rest-rooms for the country women while in town, and to promote intercourse between women of the town and of the country.

2. Town and village improvement, to promote the beauty and cleanliness of streets, public and private grounds, and of railway surroundings.

3. Fostering of the Art Interchange for the purpose of encouraging and promoting the study of art and art history, by providing slides and pictures for the use of clubs.

4. The establishing and aiding of public libraries, to be made free wherever possible, and the securing of free travelling libraries from the State.

5. The forwarding of the proposed amendment to the State constitution, which is to be voted upon at the next general election, making women eligible to positions on library boards, and to vote on library matters.

6. Coöperation with the public schools to secure the best sanitary and intellectual conditions, and especially to secure instruction in morals and the development of right character.

The whole number of clubs in the State federation is eighty-three, distributed over forty-one towns, villages, and cities, representing a membership of 3,516.

Out of the whole number of clubs, ten are distinctively travel or tourist clubs. Two are "mothers'" clubs. Three are for the study or practice of art, but the large majority literary and study clubs with occasionally civic or educational departments. Many have worked, or are working, for the establishment of libraries.



VIEW OF LAKE MINNETONKA, MINNESOTA

Miss Margaret J. Evans remains the president; Mrs. C. E. Conant, of Wells, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. L. Washburn, Duluth, recording secretary; Mrs. E. G. Butts, Stillwater, treasurer; Mrs. G. H. Ranney, St. Paul, auditor. There are seven district vice-presidents, representing Winona, St. Peter, Faribault, St. Paul, Minneapolis, Anoka, Moorhead.

The social mid-winter meeting was arranged for March 3, 1898, at

Minneapolis, by invitation of the Minneapolis clubs, of which there are twenty-one in the State federation.

The annual meeting will take place in October, 1898, at Winona, by invitation of the women's clubs of that town, of which only one appears on the federated list.

The Reading-Room Society, of St. Cloud, is said to be the oldest woman's club in Minnesota. It was organized in 1880. The object, to "establish a free reading-room, to promote intellectual growth, and enjoy social intercourse." The society became an incorporated body in 1882. In 1886 the free reading-room was established in St. Cloud, and by means of this society \$300 was voted for its support. This contribution has been given annually, with the exception of one year.

Two or three of the members have always represented it upon the Library Board.

The Clio Club, of Hastings, has a membership of twenty-five. It is a study club, and has taken for its recent basis of work ancient Greek history, beginning with the heroic age, and including the study of religion, social customs, arts, and literature. Papers are allowed, but oral work is much preferred, as it trains thought, memory, and conciseness in expression.

The Reading Club, of Hastings, has devoted itself to the history of the United States, alternating with current events and a careful reading of J. M. Barrie's works. Benjamin Harrison's "This Country of Ours" has been part of its curriculum.

The Fortnightly Club, of Hamline, is an interesting club, though its membership is limited to twenty. Its papers are followed by discussion, and it has a critic on pronunciation and statement. It has studied the political history of Germany, Switzerland, France, and Russia; three lessons on literature of France and Germany; one on German philosophy from 1789 to 1848, and German social life from 1800 to 1850; the musicians of Germany from 1815 to 1850; French and Flemish art for the same period. During the summer, as an outing club, it does the work prepared by a committee for that special purpose.

In studying art, it visits such galleries as are available, and when music is the theme, obtains illustrations from the works of best composers, from its own membership.

Prof. Charles Sprague Smith has lectured to this club on French art, and the work in every respect is conscientious and thorough.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Litchfield, is an active and enterprising organization, alive to public needs as well as to mutual improvement. It has established a reading-room in the village, which is the nucleus of a public library.

It is studying American history, and meets weekly, two papers furnishing the basis for discussion at each meeting.

It also gives a half hour to current events, and a brief period to an exercise in parliamentary drill.

Woman's Club, of Sleepy Eye, was organized in 1888. Its president was Mrs. N. F. Thompson, and it was represented at the first convention of woman's clubs in New York by the delegate from the New Century Club, of St. Paul, Mrs. Mary Driscoll.

The club is limited to twenty members. One of its members is appointed historian, serving in that position three months. She reports at each meeting the current events of the day. Roll call is answered by quotation. The work for six months is prepared and given to the club in book form. The subject of study was Shakespeare; now it is history. Once a year a banquet is served to husbands and friends.

The Woman's Club, of Newport, has for its motto, "The destiny of nations is in the hands of women." It has a membership of thirty-six. The work is miscellaneous.

The Woman's Club, of Marshall, has a membership of thirty, who devote themselves to discussion of current events, psychology, and the study of American literature.

The Study Club, of Winona, has devoted several years to the art of Rome, Florence, and Venice. Each member takes her turn as leader, and at the end of the year a careful review is made of the work, and of the actual knowledge obtained.

The study was begun under the guidance of the Boston Society for Home Study; but there is a desire to enlarge the membership, and work on the broader lines of a literary club.

The Art Club, of Winona, has pursued the study of Gothic art, and, later, the renaissance period in Italy, and also its architecture. The guide has been the outline of study furnished by the Boston Society for Studies at Home. The members of this club are interested in the leading organizations of their city. The president, Mrs. Snow, is one of the directors of the public library.

The Ladies' Reading Circle, of Ortonville, prepare their own papers on subjects assigned them by the Programme Committee. It holds meetings twice a month, and refreshments are served at the close. A book review and discussion of current events form a part of each programme. To promote sociability each member gives a party each year, to which the husbands are invited. In 1897 they united in helping to celebrate a wedding anniversary, by presenting a piece of sterling silver to the happy couple.

New Century Club, of St. Paul.—A Western writer has said that St. Paul

is a city which belongs on the Atlantic coast, but by some curious twist of circumstances has seated itself beside the Father of Waters. It has the dignity, the conservatism, the exclusiveness, as well the irregular plan of an old city, as age is reckoned on the Western continent. It is terraced up from the river flats to the high bluff where Summit Avenue lifts its crown of stately mansions. Down in the heart of the city are the "Seven Corners," where the streets come together from all possible directions like the threads of a great spider-web.

The New Century Club has one hundred and fifty members, and standing committees upon literature, science, philosophy, American and foreign politics, social questions, and miscellaneous subjects.

The club was born in 1887, but not incorporated until 1893. It meets fortnightly, and is governed by a Board of Directors, which includes the officers.

The general purpose is declared to be "the literary and social culture of its members, the promotion of a higher acquaintance of women with each other, the stimulation of intellectual development, and the renting and leasing of a club house or of club rooms and the operation thereof."

Members are elected by the Board of Directors, and the number is limited to one hundred and twenty-five. The work consists of papers and discussion upon given topics under the leadership of the chairmen of committees.

It was represented at the first convention of women's clubs called by Sorosis (1889), by Mrs. Mary Driscoll, who was one of the committee to draft a constitution for the General Federation, and was first chairman of State correspondence for Minnesota. The work of the New Century has always been of a high character.

Under the miscellaneous course we find, in 1894-95, the "Evils of Charity," "Lessons from the Swiss Republics," "The Training of the Will," "Architecture as a Profession." In the department of literature, studies were made of the "Niebelungen Lied," "The Rise of the Universities," "Influence of the Crusades on Literature," and the "Influence of Thackeray on English Fiction."

Special papers and lectures are often given in the course of the season, and attendance upon them is a coveted privilege. The first president of the New Century, 1887 to 1890, was Miss S. B. Beals, afterwards Mrs. Susan Burrill Bangs. Succeeding presidents have been, Mrs. John Jackson, Miss Grace T. Howe, Mrs. H. C. Janes, Mrs. D. R. Noyes, and, for 1896-97, Mrs. T. T. Smith.

The New Century Club has a reputation outside its own State. It has developed many distinguished club workers, and is often called upon for papers and suggestions by other clubs. Its year-books show knowledge of

business methods, as well as refinement and taste.

Its present membership is one hundred and forty-five. It meets on alternate Wednesdays, and its presiding officer is Mrs. J. A. Wheelock. It is a member of the State as well as the General Federation.

The Fortnightly, of St. Paul, and the Schubert, a musical club, are both important organizations, ranking among the most influential of the women's clubs of this beautiful town.

The Art History Class, of St. Paul, has a large membership, practically unlimited, but varying with the interest developed in its courses of study.

The Monday Club, of Northfield, has for its president Miss Margaret J. Evans, president of the Minnesota State Federation since its organization, and principal of Carlton College. It has not a large membership, but it is united with the State and General federations; and on the occasion of Mrs. Henrotin's visit to Minnesota the Monday Club gave a reception, to which it invited other clubs of Northfield, the Pioneer, the Current Events, and the Traveller's Club of Faribault, to meet the president of the General Federation. Later, Current Events invited the clubs of the city to listen to an admirable lecture on "Ancient and Modern Rome," by Miss Louisa Holman Richardson, secretary of the Monday Club.

Town and Country Club is one of the youngest of the Northfield organizations, but the first to establish club-rooms for the benefit of out-of-town members. It has discussed bimetallism from the financial as well as the political standpoint, the sides taken by an able lawyer and a distinguished financier. The club was organized in the latter part of 1895. Miss Margaret J. Evans, president of the State Federation of Women's Clubs; Miss Anna T. Lincoln and Mrs. A. H. Pierson, of the town, and Mrs. George Terry, of the country, were instrumental in its organization. During the two years of its existence the club has had an average membership of seventy-five women, about one-third of whom live outside of the town. The mingling together of the college, town, and country women once each month for social and literary purposes is a mutual benefit.



MRS. SUSAN B. BANGS,
Treasurer Minnesota Federation; First President of New Century Club, St. Paul, Minn.

The programme, prepared by Mrs. A. H. Pierson, consisted of the discussion of three or four books, one leading to the next, and of the social questions suggested in them. Owing to the frequent changing of the committee, there has not been a connected programme. Two months were given to "Martin Chuzzlewit," and one to "Scarlet Letter." Some of the lines of work taken up by women's clubs, such as "Art in the Public Schools" and "Village Improvement," occupied the attention at the April meeting. Committees were appointed to act in connection with committees from other clubs, and success has attended some of their efforts. In June the club had only a social gathering. On that day they picnicked on an island in the Cannon River. "Yellowstone Park" was the subject for one of the summer months. One of the members who had visited the park read an interesting sketch of her trip just as it was written in her diary. This gathering was at one of the country homes. The September programme was educational. Miss Evans spoke about fifteen minutes, and others read parts of papers written by noted educational women. The October meeting was also held at one of the pleasant country homes. A basket supper was one of the features of the day. The singing and reciting of some little girls, followed by impromptu recitations by an old lady, in order to show the greater advantages of the children of to-day, made a fitting programme to follow the educational one of the previous month. As a preparation for future work, an illustrated talk on "Pompeii" was given by Lucia E. Danforth, who had just returned from a visit to Italy and other European countries. Miss Danforth planned the work for the winter of 1897:

"Italian Cities in Fiction." Books to be read and discussed: "Last Days of Pompeii," "Romola," "Rienzi," "Marble Faun," "Historical Associations of the Bay of Naples," "Roman Slavery compared with Modern," "Roman Meals," "Religion of Isis," "Witch Scenes in Literature."

Discussion: "Has the Roman Taste for Gladiatorial Contests entirely Gone?"

The officers for the year ending with December were: Mrs. D. Lee Mason, president; Miss A. T. Lincoln, vice-president; Mrs. E. C. Miller, secretary-treasurer.

Current Events Club, of Northfield, is an interesting and enthusiastic study club, with a limited membership of twenty-five.

The president appoints the Programme Committee of two members to prepare the topics for the year. The subjects have been varied, from national and international currency, banking, and South Africa, to George Eliot and Hall Caine, and their writings.

The meetings are continued throughout the year.

The Alpha Beta Phi Society discusses current questions of a public char-

acter, national and international. These are presented from the most opposite sides, and from as many points of view as possible, the freest expression of opinion being encouraged.

Minneapolis possesses more women's clubs than any other town in Minnesota, though they are not all so large numerically as the few which have taken root in St. Paul.

The Nineteenth Century Club, Minneapolis, was organized on serious, thoughtful lines; its motto expresses this: "And in these cities there are not only men who pride themselves on learning, but women also."

The originator was Miss N. Rickey, now Mrs. John Albee. It was organized at the home of Mrs. Cairns, November 8, 1890.

The work has been largely contemporaneous history, beginning with the French Revolution, and dealing with the topics in a broad yet educative manner that has trained the intellectual power of the members. Papers are not allowed; even notes are discouraged. The work, as far as possible, presents clear and complete word-pictures of the times, the events, the personages, and the comparative review of results.

The Nineteenth Century Club sent a delegate, Mrs. Henry L. Moore, to the first biennial in Chicago, and also its then president, Mrs. Leach.

Its present presiding officer is Mrs. F. G. Bacheldore. The number of members is twenty-five. It meets on alternate Tuesdays, beginning the first one in October, and is a member of both State and General federations. With the latter it affiliated in September, 1891.

The Coterie is a purely literary organization of a high character. It was federated in the general organization in the same year with the Nineteenth Century Club, and sent its president and a delegate to the first biennial.

Its study during that year, 1892-93, was the "Johnsonian Age," and its references showed an intimate acquaintance with the best literature. Mrs. Nina M. Cohen was the delegate to Chicago, and is still a force, not only in the literary life of the club, but in the world beyond it. She is an interpreter of Ibsen, and a popular and scholarly member of the University Extension faculty.

The work of the club is planned for the presentation of subjects, first, into essays of twenty minutes' duration, followed by sketches of personages, authors, and the like connected with it, these not to exceed ten minutes' duration. The "conversation" which closes the session is directed by a leader, and is upon the work of the day. A general review is given by the president at the close of the year.

The Tuesday Club, of Minneapolis, antedates all others in its length of

days. It has completed its twenty-fourth year of continued life and work. Its recent study was Italian literature, followed by Italian art and architecture. A half hour is spent at each meeting upon some current event of the day. The club has a membership of twenty-two, with a limit of twenty-five, and it meets in the Woman's Council room weekly.

The French Students' Club, of Minneapolis, was formed on September 1, 1895, with Mrs. Wm. C. Foster as president. The leader was changed early in November to Mme. Julliard Payne, and the club grew rapidly in membership. Most of them were too advanced for the students' reading, so there were formed from the original little students' class three large clubs, the West Hotel Club, the Lowry Hill Club, and the French Students' Club.

The French Students' Club, besides its reading of French works, decided to give its attention to culture of voice and body, and is now known by the name of Minneapolis Students' Club.

The Ladies' Shakespeare Club, of Minneapolis, studied five years under the auspices of the Boston Society for the Promotion of Home Study. It then began, under its own auspices, the study of the "Shakespearean Age" from the standpoints of literature and political history. The number of members is limited to twenty-five, and the meetings are held weekly.

The Columbian Study Class devoted 1897 to literature and art, principally during the periods of the fourteenth century and the early part of the fifteenth. The meetings have been held fortnightly in the Woman's Council room in the new court-house.

The E. E. Kenyon Club was organized by the women who had for years studied under the leadership of Miss Kenyon. The club was named in honor of her, and she is honorary president. The other officers are changed every two years. There are three meetings a year; first, business, a literary morning, and last a social reunion. The work is done in classes.

The Art History Class has been devoted to the study of Greek art and literature under a leader, Mrs. Metcalf. So interested were the members that they continued their meetings during the summer, devoting them to selections from the Greek poets and dramatists.

The Round Table, of Minneapolis, has a membership of about five hundred. Primarily it was intended for teachers, and its organization was of the simplest. Its president was Miss Sarah Arnold, the superintendent of primary schools, until her removal to Boston.

Its study of child life, and the lectures given by Miss Arnold during her administration, attracted many mothers, and the club outgrew the limits of its original design.

Its work has strongly united the interests of mothers and teachers.

The Froebel Kindergarten Club is for the study of kindergarten work

and methods. Its membership was at first small, and there is growing interest in the work.

The Tourist Club, of Minneapolis.—Probably no club-women enjoy club life more than the members of tourist or travellers' clubs, so called. To those who have visited, or contemplate visiting, foreign lands the work is a delight and a stimulus, recalling the greatest, most impersonal pleasures of their lives, and inciting to more thoroughness in seeing, hearing, and reading.

To the stay-at-homes the preparation, the air of reality, the views from many sides, and amount of time given to each constitute the most satisfactory substitute for the real thing that can be imagined, and so far as information of the countries studied is concerned, furnishes a better equipment than ordinary travel.

For the rest the tourist lives in the land of the lotus, or lingers in the region of perpetual snows without discomfort or "bills." She climbs sure-footed over the mountain paths, always finds pleasant quarters, and a good meal waiting for her. She has the best of companionship, and makes the acquaintance of all the distinguished men and women of the neighborhood she visits. She hobnobs with kings, queens, and princes. Palace doors fly open at her approach, disclosing their secret treasures, also their secret skeletons; so that she has no wish to be more than a visitor, for she sees

"What we know is the measure of what we see."

"The meanest have their day.
The greatest can but blaze and pass away."

This view of the Tourist Club will be verified by reference to addresses, and reports of presidents and secretaries, and the testimony of individual members of all such clubs as are of long standing.

One of the most thoroughly equipped tourist clubs in the great body of women's clubs is the Tourist Club of Minneapolis. It was organized on November 23, 1891, at the residence of Mrs. Martha C. Wells, who was its first president.

Its motive was the desire to prepare for intelligent travel, and its object and plan of study embrace all that would interest an observant, broad-minded tourist.

Since the second meeting, the Tourists have assembled at the public library weekly when in session. The constitution is simple, and rotation in office an unwritten law. The club is limited to thirty members, and notwith-





MRS. MARTHA C. WELLS,
Founder Tourist Club, Minneapolis

MRS. ISABELLA R. BUCHANAN,
Representative Member Tourist Club

MRS. ELIZABETH P. FISH,
President Tourist Club, 1897, Minneapolis, Minn.

standing the amount of work required, there is always a waiting list of applicants. Its characteristics are system, thoroughness, and enthusiasm.

Believing that the greatest benefit and enjoyment of travel come by thorough previous preparation, a thought from Lessing was adopted as a motto: "What we know is the measure of what we see."

The insignia is a golden globe; its significance, the world is unlimited in journeys, golden in the sunlight of information, and illumined by pleasurable companionship.

The programme, arranged for twenty-six meetings, is prepared each year by a chosen committee. The work accomplished has been as follows:

1891-2, England and Wales; 1892-3, Scotland and Ireland; 1893-4, France; 1894-5, Spain and Italy; 1895-6, Germany; 1896-7, Switzerland, Holland, and Belgium.

Four or five topics are presented at each meeting, limited in time and given without notes, much individuality being shown. An important feature is the review questions on the topics of each preceding meeting, and a general review at the close of the year.

The facilities for study (prepared by the members) for each country embrace large maps on which physical and geographical features are located as they are described; charts of political history record the rulers and events by centuries from beginning to date; charts of schools of painting; plans of towns are drawn and diagrams illustrate the styles of architecture. Illustrations in engravings and color are indispensable.

Book-room permits are given each member, and a committee select books for reference weekly, which, placed conveniently, save individual time. While studying France, art was made exceptionally interesting from a lecture by Mr. Burt Harwood, of the Julien Académie, Paris; also by visiting the fine galleries of Mr. T. B. Walker, Minneapolis, and Mr. J. J. Hill, St. Paul. Illustrated lectures were given on Germany by Rev. George H. Wells and Dr. J. K. Hosmer.

The Tourist is a member of the State and General Federations of clubs, and at the biennial meeting in 1896 were represented by Martha Scott Anderson. The club, in unison with others, sent a beautifully illuminated card, with programme and history attached, to the Woman's Department of the World's Fair; also to Atlanta, Ga. This unique portfolio in each case was awarded a diploma and medal.

A delightful feature has been the frequent social gatherings at the homes in town, varied by charming trips to lake-side cottages and country seats, great versatility being shown in the entertainments.

The results of the work have been a stimulus to study and travel, ease in presenting topics clearly and concisely without notes, helpfulness to individuals, and aid in literary extension work. The influence has extended to ten different clubs in four States, which are modelled after the Tourist, and pursue its programme. The presiding officer (1898) is Mrs. C. B. Elliot.

The outlined programme for study of Switzerland, Holland, and Belgium was so complete that it is appended as a model to this volume.

The Household Economic Association, of Minneapolis, is a comparatively recent organization, but an active one. It was incorporated with the purpose of starting an industrial training school, and is working towards that object.

Its membership of twenty has been more than doubled, and its papers have been considered so valuable that four of them constituted the entire programme of the science department of the Woman's Council at one of its meetings in 1897.

The Woman's Council, of Minneapolis, and the Woman's Literary Union, of Portland, Maine, are the two oldest of the city federations.

The Woman's Council was organized in November, 1892, and represents 67 organizations in 8 different departments: philanthropy, 17; literature, 15; church societies, 12; education, 8; history, 5; temperance, 5; reform, 3; art and music, 2.



MRS. T. B. WALKER,
President of the Woman's Council, Minneapolis,
Minn.

Its president is Mrs. T. B. Walker, a woman of great executive ability and wide influence.

The constitution of the council declares the aim to be, "to bring the various associations of women of Minneapolis into closer relations through an organic union, the object of which shall be to serve as a medium of communication and a means of prosecuting any work of common interest; but no society entering the council shall thereby lose its independence in aim or method, or be committed to any principle or method of any society in the council."

The council admits organizations composed of both men and women, the president of each society being a vice-president of the council, and together with the general officers constituting an executive committee.

The general officers are elected at the annual meeting. An informal ballot is first taken, and the two names receiving the highest number of votes are declared the nominees for each office in the formal ballot.

The annual conventions occupy several days. Each department contributes papers or a symposium upon subjects akin to its work, and reports through some of its local societies. The musical societies are an important and delightful adjunct. The regular meetings are monthly, and are held in the Woman's Council rooms in the city court-house. Interesting questions, or papers brought before the local clubs are often carried to the council for further discussion, so that it forms a sort of clearing-house for the local organizations it represents.

Saturday Club of Duluth.—The history of the first few years of a woman's club frequently exemplifies in a small way the great law of evolution. There is growth in structure and function. There is increased definiteness and greater coherence. At the same time there is usually change from homogeneity to heterogeneity. All of the elements of evolutionary development may be found in the Saturday Club. Not yet quite nine years old, it has attained a position and standing, and is doing a work the value of which is not easily estimated. It contains in embryo the germs of a department club when the time shall be ripe for such an organization in Duluth. Already some of the features of a department club are noticeable in its workings. History, literature, art, and travels are studied on the different Saturdays of each month. Those members whose household or other duties preclude their attendance at all of the meetings, have selected those subjects of most interest to themselves, and make a point of attending the meetings at which they are presented.

The club is at present studying the history, literature, and art of England through the preceding reigns and during the Elizabethan era.

The art and literature of the period are studied contemporaneously with the history, and this brings in the social life, manners, and customs of the people.

The discussion of current events occupies the first half hour of each session. Two leaders in this subject are appointed for the year, who lead the discussions on alternate months. When the current events department was added to the club five years ago, there were only three or four members who would, during the following year, take any part in the discussion. Now all members participate freely and talk well.

One of the best things in this club is the sense of personal responsibility of each of its members. This quality has had a gradual growth; but now when the president has appointed committees for the various lines of work she need give no further care or thought to it. At the proper time the work will be done. In January the president appoints committees on history, literature, art, and travels. Each committee consists of four members. These committees outline the work for the following year, and by the close of the club year in May it is ready for publication in the club calendar.

The Saturday Club is the only incorporated club in the city. It is the only club which belongs both to the State and General Federations. The club owns a piano and some other property, and has an unlimited membership.

The president (1897) is Mrs. Alma P. Washburn.

The Outlook Club, of Duluth, was organized in 1897 from a reading class, of which Mrs. M. H. Marshall was the leader.

The original membership was of various nationalities, and the work mis-

cellaneous, but very good. The studies have been principally in poetry and art, English, German, and Italian. These have alternated with some studies in recent science and the new study of child nature.

The club has now been divided into committees that work under the heads of art, music and drama, science and philosophy, literature and history, sociology and philanthropy.

Each committee is responsible for three out of the fifteen working club days of the year, and every member is expected to participate in the work.

The Ladies' Literary Club, of Duluth, has studied American literature in the following order: William Cullen Byrant; Prescott's life and histories; the rise, growth, and power of the American press; Longfellow; life of Motley and his "Rise of the Dutch Republic"; life of Bancroft and his "History of the United States"; Holmes, and American art and artists. Papers were read on "Woman Journalists," "The Evolution of the Magazine," and "Types of Historians," and "Architecture." The work has been excellent. Next year the subject will be "Sociology."

The Magazine Club, of Duluth, holds its meetings at the homes of Mrs. Miller and Mrs. Hartley. They have enjoyed delightful readings and some fine musical numbers, in addition to the regular magazine work. There has been an active membership of thirty, covering a period of five years' work. Nine magazines are taken, and the subjects are well selected and have been most interesting.

Duluth is the home of Mrs. Susan Burrill Bangs, first president of the New Century Club, of St. Paul, and treasurer (1897) of the State federation.

St. Peter Sorosis.—This young club, organized in 1896, federated in 1897, is not large, but it is pervaded by a most delightful spirit of unity and desire for spiritual development, as well as intellectual culture. The members are educated women, who pursue the higher studies, not for the primary acquisition of just so much more knowledge, but for comparative purposes, and also to get at meanings—what may be called the education of the soul as well as the mind.

This purpose will always restrict numbers, the growth being interior rather than exterior, and not to be measured by facts or words. 1897-98, including the summer months, is given to Tennyson, particularly in "The Idyls of the King." The preceding work was a study of "The Princess."

The president is Mrs. Mary V. Tomlinson, of St. Peter, historian of Minnesota State Federation; vice-president, Lucy C. Lamberton; secretary and treasurer, Mary E. Starcke.

Woman's Literary Club of St. Peter.—The year 1896 was devoted to American authors. A pleasant feature was answering to the roll-call with a

quotation from the author under discussion, or from some other. The members are housekeepers and mothers, and deserve credit for establishing a free library of over three hundred volumes, which the city has voted to accept. As a tourist club they visited England in 1897.

Rochester Woman's Club.—This is the name of an organization to which seventy of Rochester's public-spirited women have pledged their allegiance, and for the success of which they loyally work. The club was organized in 1895. At the time of its inception the minds of the promoters were not very clear as to any definite plan of work, but the general object is explained by the following article of the constitution: "The aim of the association shall be to promote the advancement of women along the lines of literary, scientific, religious, or philanthropic work, and to interest women in all leading questions."

As a large number of the members were connected with one or more literary classes, it was deemed wise for this new club not to direct its energies along any special line of study, but to cast about to find something practical to do in the way of helping others. Fortunately Miss Evans, president of the State federation, visited Rochester during the winter, and in a little talk outlined many possibilities for usefulness. Among other suggestions was one which appealed particularly to the club as being an enterprise in which it seemed almost a duty to engage. But the thought was slow in developing into action. Meanwhile interest in the club was kept fresh and active by monthly meetings, at which pleasant programmes were followed and social intimacy promoted. A winter passed in this manner, and then, with the approach of spring, the desire to be up and doing seemed to enter simultaneously into the minds of many of the club members, and now it was that the suggestion which had taken such hold began to assume form. The thought which Miss Evans had inspired was that the lives of country women might be made more enjoyable by looking after their comfort while on their frequent visits to the city. To this end a club-room might be opened which should be a resort for out-of-town ladies for rest and general convenience.

Ideas were vague as to the kind of room needed, its location, the manner of its financial support, the favor it might meet with; but one fact stood out plainly, and that was, that if in any town such a place was needed, it certainly was needed in Rochester. Rochester may be characterized as a market town, as its prosperity depends almost entirely upon the agricultural interests of the surrounding country. It lies in a rich and fertile section, the garden of Minnesota, and the farmers' wagons and carriages, lining its main streets, testify to the character of its business. These vehicles bring to town many women, with their children, who, when their shopping is done, have perhaps hours to wait before their husbands, brothers, or fathers are ready to go home.

Where shall they spend these weary hours, and where shall they put the baby, which had to come because there was no one at home to leave it with, and which grows heavy after being carried so long?

Where shall they go to eat the lunch with which they have come provided? Shall they sit in the wagon or in the grocery stores, or stand around on the sidewalks? In warm weather they might remain out of doors, albeit the sun is hot, but in winter the grocery is the only alternative. Pondering on these things, which were not fancy, but every-day facts, it was decided to make a beginning towards providing a reception-room for these women. The first step was to appoint a committee to interview a few of the leading business men of the town as to their opinion of the enterprise. The result was highly satisfactory. While some few doubted the necessity of such a place, by far the greater number heartily approved the plan and promised generous financial support. A thorough canvas of the business houses resulted in a pledge of forty dollars per month. This we found would enable us to hire a commodious room on Broadway, the principal business street, and leave a pleasant margin for incidental expenses.

The room selected was a little removed from the business centre, but near enough to be convenient, and was on the ground floor, facing the street.

"I mention these different points," says the historian, "because they were each carefully considered by the committee, the object being to make a pleasant resort where, while the women waited and rested, they could at the same time enjoy the passing show."

Being of good size, we partitioned it into four rooms. The front room was designed for the reception-room proper, the one immediately behind this for a lunch-room, and opening from the lunch-room was a small dressing-room and a toilet-room. All were freshly painted and papered. Chairs, lounges, sofas, desk, cradles, dining and centre tables, children's rockers, rugs, pictures, etc., were donated by club members; various merchants contributed other necessary articles, such as a heating stove, a cooking stove, a clock, matting, tinware, china, silver, etc. A handsome sign was painted for us free. The manager of the gas works promised us free gas; the water company, free water; the iceman, free ice; the telephone company added a telephone to all the rest, and so we went merrily on, rejoicing in the good fortune which was showering upon us.

At last all was in readiness, and the rooms were formally opened by a public reception. All were delighted with the result of our efforts, and everything seemed to promise success. But we were not quite sure how the country people might regard us and our scheme; only time would determine that, we thought. We had advertised well through the daily and weekly papers, and we hoped that eventually our patronage would grow to goodly propor-

tions. We did not look for large results immediately. We supposed the child of our thought and care would be weak and puny at first, and would require careful nourishing to bring it to maturity.

The day following the opening reception was Memorial Day, and this was our first business day. In due time our hoped-for visitors began to arrive. How gladly we welcomed each one! In our anxiety for a good record we kept paper and pencil in hand, and took note of each arrival, and what was our delight when closing time came to find that we had entertained sixty people on this our first day! We breathed freely. I am afraid we felt almost like throwing up our hats and cheering, but custom forbade.

Our enterprise fairly launched, all details of its management were easily arranged. It was agreed that two ladies, club members, should preside over the rooms each day, and that the rooms should be open to the public from nine o'clock in the morning until six at night; that a checking department should be established where visitors could leave wraps and packages in safety; that men should not be excluded from the rooms when accompanying their wives or lady friends; that ladies be at liberty to make tea or coffee in the lunch-room, if they so desired.

The rooms were to be considered absolutely free, but for the convenience of those who wished to contribute voluntary offerings, a mite box was placed in an accessible position.

A committee was appointed to collect the subscriptions monthly. Our faithful president and secretary fortunately live only a short distance from the rooms, and keep a watchful eye upon them; and, incidentally, upon us all to see that we each perform our allotted duties. It is an arduous task for them, but in their unselfish devotion to the good cause they gladly perform it. The gratitude expressed by the ladies who frequent the rooms is full guarantee of the wisdom of the movement.

The attendance steadily increases and the "Free Reception-rooms for Women and Children" seem now to be among the indispensable institutions of Rochester. There is a homelike feeling about the place, which is very pleasant, and it is gratifying to see how freely the women come and go, sometimes stopping for only a moment to leave extra wraps or packages, sometimes giving the children necessary care, or putting the baby to sleep in one of the cradles, sometimes waiting for trains or friends, eating lunches, arranging disordered hair or apparel in the dressing room, and in fact making of the rooms just exactly such a place as we hoped for.

There is another phase of the work which is also gratifying, and that is the cultivation of the social spirit, and the breaking down of the barriers between the ladies of city and country. These frequent meetings cannot help but bring mutual good and promote a more healthful condition of social life.

Membership in the Woman's Club is open to all ladies from out of town who desire to avail themselves of the privilege, and many are thus drawn into closer connection with us.

The reception-rooms also serve good purpose. They are a convenient meeting place for different women's organizations, when these meetings do not conflict with the primary object of the place; for instance, the Benevolent Society will this winter have its headquarters here, from which they will distribute clothing and other necessities to the poor.

Another project which has engaged the attention of the club for a season was a series of cooking lessons. A teacher was secured and a ten days' course of demonstration lessons was given, which proved of great value.

The attendance was excellent, ninety tickets for the course being sold. The large number of tickets disposed of enabled us to put the price within the reach of all, namely, one dollar. As a consequence, many working girls were able to attend, a fact most gratifying to us.

Since the foregoing was read at the meeting of the State federation, the kindergarten has been started, and is now in successful operation with an enrolment of about twenty pupils. It is partly self-supporting, but all details of its management outside the actual school-room work are carried on by a committee appointed by the president of the Woman's Club.

A sewing-school is the latest venture, and that, too, sprang full-armed into vigorous life. The sessions are held every Saturday morning at the reception-rooms, and are attended by about thirty-five little girls, who seem to enjoy spending half their holiday here. Enough ladies are present at each session to plan the work and give the necessary instruction. V. O. F.

The Woman's Club, of Lake City, is a very thorough and scholarly little club. Though not so formal in its methods as the clubs of towns, its study work is excellent, and its outlines devoted (1896-97) to Mexican history and archæology, to Cuba, Chili, Peru, and other South American states, while not exhaustive, are most suggestive as a basis of work. The Lake City club brought Prof. Maria L. Sanford, of the State University, of Minneapolis, and the president of the Woman's Improvement League, to the town for the purpose of giving a course of lectures, which proved highly successful. These lectures were not only considered a direct benefit to the people of the city, but furnished a fund for the starting of a public library in place of one that had been destroyed by fire.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Merriam Park, is an old and somewhat informal organization. Each member has her own part in the literary work, but prepares it to suit herself without assignment or direction. The papers

have been mainly upon the works of living authors, have taken a wide range, and shown much originality as well as careful study.

The continuous work has covered nearly twenty years, and there is probably no literary club in the State in which the feeling of personal knowledge of the authors of the period has become so strong and so intimate as in the Woman's Literary Club of Merriam.

The social side is not by any means neglected. There are informal gatherings to which friends are invited, gentlemen as well as ladies, and at these refreshments are always served.

The Morris Floral Club, of Morris, has a membership of forty, and an honorary list of five. It meets monthly, and enjoys a short musical and literary programme.

At an entertainment given to its friends it presented a dramatic performance that was highly appreciated.

Its principal object, however, is the use and distribution of flowers, flower seeds, and bulbs. It supplies these to its members freely, and sends flowers to the hospitals of Minneapolis and St. Paul; also to its own sick members.

The club is often called upon to contribute the decorations, for public occasions, in its own town; and it supplies wreaths for public use on Decoration Day.

A floral festival, which was held in August, 1896, netted a handsome sum, used for beautifying the cemetery.

Early Clubs in Missouri

Springfield Ladies' Saturday Club began in 1879. The founder and for many years the president was Mrs. H. C. Milner, now of St. Louis. Its life has been continuous and helpful, though its membership has been small. It is the oldest club in Springfield, and one of the oldest in the State of Missouri. Its work has always been studious on literary and historical lines, with divergent topics upon home improvement, educational progress, and subjects of local interest.

*"Do the duty that
nearest lies."*

One year was given to "Florence during the Middle Ages," another to "Paris, Ancient and Modern."

In the several fields of music, literature, education, art, history, work, at home and abroad, and social duties, is found ample opportunity for entertainment and culture.

The club owns property, and has given an endowment of five hundred dollars to Drury College library. The interest of this buys books that at the end of the club year's work are turned over to the library. In return, the club has a home within the walls, and library privileges.

It was incorporated in 1894, and joined both State and National Federations in 1896. It was represented at the annual convention by Mrs. E. H. Bonslog, whose paper, "The Child Problem in America," attracted much attention.

The present officers are : President, Mrs. E. Hensley ; vice-president, Mrs. M. B. Morris ; recording secretary, Mrs. J. E. Nelson ; corresponding secretary and librarian, Mrs. E. H. Bonslog ; treasurer, Mrs. Wygal ; musical director, Mrs. M. L. Burden ; historian, Miss A. Cowan.

The meetings of the Saturday Club are held on alternate Saturday afternoons. The membership is forty, with six associates.

Friends in Council, of Springfield, is one of the famous thirteen of the



MRS. H. C. MILNER,
Founder Springfield Ladies' Saturday
Club, Mo.

same name that are considered outgrowths of the original Friends in Council, of Quincy, Ill., and are generally inspired by the same spirit of kindness and earnest desire for knowledge.

Friends in Council was originally a Chautauqua reading circle. In 1887 its eight members formed permanent club organization, and bravely took up Buckle's "Civilization" for its study. It allied itself with the General Federation from the beginning, and with the State federation as soon as that was formed.

It has always adhered to its original object of literary and social culture.

Its printed programmes show a record of studies which differ in some respects from the majority of study clubs; for example, Scott's "Monastery" was chosen as a companion to Shakespeare's "Tempest"; the divisions including the story of the "Tempest" followed by conversation, to show how the scenery and general surroundings of the story make an appropriate background to its leading idea.

Other topics were the "Tempest as a Study of Enchantment" and "Miranda as an Ideal Maiden." The conversations following the first of these topics were upon "Elemental Beings as Agents of the Enchantment" and "Elements of Real Life Akin to Enchantment."

The story of the "Monastery" opened the door to the conditions which



CORNER IN LIBRARY—FRIENDS IN COUNCIL, SPRINGFIELD, MO.

preceded the Reformation; to the Reformation itself, and to the religious and social conditions in England and Scotland.

The subjects, therefore, in the hands of Friends in Council have been the "key" which unlocked all doors, and provided wide fields for explanation and comparative study.

The club has at all times given more or less attention to current events, and has not neglected the social side. It has had its annual reunions, at which a review of the year's work was followed by a feast and toasts. One of them, "Hitch your wagon to a star," was once answered by an original poem, at the close of which a wagon was taken from the centrepiece, hitched to a star of roses, and filled with buttonhole bouquets. It was drawn round the table, each member taking one for herself, and was surprised to find a tiny representative of herself among the leaves. So this Council of Friends actually occupied the wagon of Emerson, and will always remember it was hitched to a star and will be inspired to better things.

The "children's day" has been celebrated by the Friends with considerable originality. At one of these entertainments the president of the club told the children the story of Apollo, which more than one affirmed was a Bible story. They listened intently, and grasped more of it than was expected. The feature of the afternoon was a scene from Sophocles' "Antigone," by two little girls in costume, who entered into the spirit of the tragedy with enthusiasm.

The sympathy, enthusiasm, and earnestness of purpose are as strongly felt now by Friends in Council as in the past, and its record of work is as admirable.

Friends in Council joined the General Federation in 1892. Its president is Mrs. J. L. Holland. It meets every Friday, and has a membership of twenty women.

The "81" Club, of Kansas City, Mo., was organized in 1881 as the Thursday Afternoon Club. In 1889 it adopted a name, distinctively its own, in order that it might be incorporated and carry with it the sign manual of the year of its birth. "81" was organized as a study club, and for ten years was occupied with the study of different nations, taking their general and political history, climate, language, literature, religion, churches, schools, architecture, social and domestic life, including biographies of personages connected with the development of its arts and sciences. While the text furnishes a basis, many suggestive topics are introduced for discussion. Yearly programmes are printed with essays and topics assigned to each member. The topics are expected to be given orally, in order to cultivate memory and self-command.

The work accomplished from 1890 to 1894 was the study of the con-

temporaneous history of the European nations from the fourteenth to the nineteenth century, inclusive, and Egypt from the Memphian period to the present era. After having spent six years on the separate history of different nations, the subject was not so very formidable; it was simply the assorting, classifying, and arranging the material obtained, and was, therefore, but a pleasant gleaner period. As expressed in a report of that time: "England and France, Spain and Germany, Rome and Russia have come to be, not different nationalities, but simply individual parts in the grand total of human life, and though the people of these different countries express their thoughts and feelings in varying forms of speech, yet the motives, plans, and purposes which underlie the spoken word are one."

"'81" was an early club, and a "wrecked home life" was the least among the evils predicted for the members of a woman's club in those days. Ten years later its president wrote: "I would like to bear witness that our homes are still well ordered, our children fed, clothed, and educated with the same interest and care as in the times gone by when the only approved assembly for women was the church sewing society."

"'81" joined the General Federation, at its foundation in New York, in 1889. It withdrew in 1893 in order to make one of the then new organizations called the Social Science Federation of Kansas and Western Missouri, afterwards absorbed in the State federation.

The Lebanon Shakespeare Class started in 1882. It began with a little group of women who, meeting in a social way, discussed the general narrowness, monotony, and want of intellectual stimulus in the average woman's life. An informal organization was effected for the study of Shakespeare, and for six years pursued a course that was in itself an education. With "Cymbeline" they went back to the ancient Briton, with "Troilus and Cressida" and "Timon of Athens" they took Grecian history, with "Coriolanus" and "Julius Cæsar" they read Roman history, with "King John" and "Henry VIII." they studied English history and biography. The characters in the tragedies were made the subjects of written sketches. A thorough study was made of all obscure phrases, and the meanings sought of all allusions to history, science, mythology, biography, and geography were carefully looked up. Shakespeare taught this club the love of the universal. Beginning with three persons, it shortly grew to thirty women, and its Shakespearean work was succeeded by as thorough a study of American history and literature. It joined the General Federation in 1893, but its distance from the centre and the formation of the State federation caused its withdrawal.

The Alternate Tuesday Club, of Kansas City, was organized in 1884, with the object of the "growth and development of mind." It was organized

and equipped for a thorough course of study in the history, literature, and arts of different nations. Its interest grew, and it still pursues its work with enthusiasm, though the subjects have become miscellaneous instead of historical. The president is Mrs. J. H. Thompson; the secretary, Mrs. H. P. Child; the membership, twenty.

Bancroft Club, of Kansas City, was organized in May, 1888, with a constitution limiting the membership to twenty-five—a limit which it still maintains. During the first four years it completed Green's "History of the English People," including the literature, religion, and customs of the age, aided by the invaluable work of Louise Maertz on "English and Continental Literature"; seven of the historical plays of Shakespeare, Guizot's "History of France," and a work on "Parliamentary Law."

The verdict of club experience in this organization is that it is "time well spent, friends well made, and purposes well formed." The social life of the club has received due attention. Each club year closes with an annual reception. Parlor lectures have formed a popular feature in its method of social culture, and subjects of literary and educational interest have been discussed by the best minds in the State. The president is Mrs. T. B. Kinney; the secretary, Mrs. K. B. Fullerton. The general topic for the year is "Art Centres of Europe."

The Athenæum Club, of Kansas City, is a purely literary organization. Its president is Mrs. Laura E. Scammon; its secretary, Mrs. Joseph Adler. Its membership is one hundred and nineteen, the largest of the purely literary clubs of the State.

The Magazine Club, of Kansas City, came into existence in 1892 through the agency of a delegate to the first biennial. The scheme of work was one for mutual benefit. The member who reads, reads for the benefit of all. The feat of obtaining all that is best in the magazines of the month without waste of time is a desideratum in this age of hurry.

The Runcie Club, of St. Joseph, is a large purely literary or study organization of one hundred and twenty-five women. It was started in 1894, and is named after the founder. It is a "conversation" club; the work planned and directed by Mrs. Runcie, who is its continuous president.

Webster Groves has two literary clubs. **The Monday Club**, with a membership of fifty-five, divides its time between a study of history and the discussion of current events. Its president is Mrs. C. R. Sidy; its secretary, Mrs. Stockbridge. Spanish history formed the basis of study during the past year.

The Century Club studies nineteenth century authors. It has a membership of eighteen, and the president is Mrs. A. R. Smyth; secretary, Mrs. W. J. Totten.

The Alumnæ Associations, several of which have club features and are affiliated with the State federation, show the largest individual membership, with one or two exceptions, of any of the individual clubs of Missouri.

The largest is the Alumnæ of the Mary Institute, of St. Louis, with a membership of nearly six hundred. President, Miss Lucy Hodgeman; secretary, Miss S. G. Branch.

The Monticello Students' Association, also of St. Louis, has one hundred members. President, Mrs. W. F. L. Hadley; secretary, Miss Alice Hough.

The Osmer Hall Alumnæ Association has ninety-four members. President, Miss F. T. Forbes; secretary, Miss M. G. Whitelaw.

The Alumnæ of Forest Park University has a membership of fifty. President, Mrs. I. Hopkins; secretary, Mrs. J. S. Long.

Modern Novel Club was organized in St. Louis, November, 1887, by Margaret M. Barber Stone, who has remained its president. The object of the club is "to arouse discussion, and stimulate a more general and intelligent interest in the influence of the modern novel." The theory of the club is that the reading public becomes an important factor in any direction towards which it receives a stimulus.

This theory is borne out by facts. The recorded statistics of five thousand libraries in the United States show that the novel is the book mainly called for and supplied. It is of the greatest importance, therefore, that this stream of fiction should be inspired by intelligence, good sense, an educated conscience, a belief in purity, and practical ideas of life.

The love story, without sense or reason, and later, what is called the "realistic" novel, dealing only with the sensational, have dominated this world of fiction, in which so many people live; and these are only beginning to give place to the analytic novel, which in the writer's hands usually feeds morbid and introspective tendencies. To discover, discuss, and relegate these qualities and influences to their place in the novel and in society, and stimulate a desire for more sincere and healthy pictures of life and character, is the ultimate aim of the members of the "Modern Novel" Club.

During its ten years of life it has read and discussed upwards of sixty novels by forty different authors; and endeavors through this study to obtain



MRS. RUNCIE,
Founder and President of Runcie Club,
St. Joseph, Mo.



SEDALIA SOROSIS

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|-------------------------------------|--|
| 1. MRS. W. F. HAUSBERGER, Secretary | 2. MRS. A. D. JAMES, Vice-president |
| 3. MRS. MARY T. MCCLUNEY, President | 4. MRS. JOHN C. VAN RIFER, First President |
| 5. MRS. F. N. GUENTHER, Treasurer | 6. MRS. D. H. SMITH, Chairman Membership Committee |

an understanding and appreciation of human nature and the cultivation of refinement in manner and speech. Whatever help the special student of humanity needs, he must seek in modern novels of realism and purpose.

Sedalia Sorosis was the pioneer woman's club of central Missouri. It was organized in 1889 by Mrs. John C. Van Riper, who was elected its first president. The succeeding presidents were Miss Ida Newkirk and Mrs. S. K. Bullard. The two latter were graduates of Wellesley, and were succeeded in 1892 by Mrs. M. C. T. McCluney, who remains the presiding officer until now (1897).

Sedalia Sorosis has had no continuous course of study. Its programmes have dealt largely with the history and literature, the social characteristics, and personages who have influenced the development of different peoples and countries; but they have been largely distinctive studies of times, peoples, and places rather than the mere following of an historic line, and have been interspersed with papers and discussions upon the philosophy of events and educational development. Music and current topics have been features from the start.

The forty women who compose the membership include some of the brightest and most progressive women of the State. Mrs. Janes, the vice-president, is a woman of much travel and broad culture. The chairman of the Membership Committee, Mrs. Smith, is a typical Southern woman, brilliant in conversation and gracious in manner. Mrs. McCluney is a native of New York, the daughter of a clergyman and a woman of fine literary taste.

The club is enthusiastic, and a member of both State and General Federations. Its inspiration is well stated in one of its quotations from Carlyle's "French Revolution": "Every unit is a miraculous Man, even as thyself art; struggling, with vision or with blindness, for *his* infinite kingdom; with a spark of that Divinity, what thou callest an immortal soul, in him!"

Its first and most notable event this year (1898) was the entertainment of the annual convention of the Missouri Federation, which was held in Sedalia on January 19th, 20th, and 21st. In this important effort it was assisted by other Sedalia clubs, who united in the fine reception given to visiting delegates on the opening evening of Tuesday, January 19th. Sedalia is famous for hospitality, and the attendance was therefore large from every part of the State.

Wednesday Club, of St. Louis, founded in 1890 by Mrs. Cordelia S. Sterling, is the second largest club in the State, and the first one to organize on the department plan.

Until 1893 it worked under standing committees: literature and history, education, social economics, current topics, art, and science. In the beginning of 1894 these committees were organized as sections, with secretary and treasurer, as well as chairman, and worked upon an independent basis, although



MRS. CORDELIA S. STERLING,
Founder and First President Wednesday
Club, St. Louis, Mo.

in direct connection with the club and under its general supervision. The result of this change was to broaden the work and render it much more efficient. The social economics section originated the Emergency Aid Association, which has done energetic work and become an important factor in the community.

The art section, during the season of 1895-96, founded an Art League, having for its object the placing on the walls of schools and public institutions fine photographs and reproductions of the best paintings, sculpture, and architecture. The aim has been to educate the taste by object lessons, at the same time adding something of beauty to the daily lives of those who have small opportunity of seeing its manifestation.

The current topics section collects periodicals and magazines for distribution, sending current literature to the city institutions.

Members of the education section have started kindergartens among the poor, and formed an association known as the Isabel Crow Kindergarten Association.

The Wednesday Club has distinguished itself in many ways. In January, 1896, it entertained the delegates from all the clubs of the State at a meeting held, pursuant to its call and invitation, to discuss and form a State federation. The convention was held and the federation successfully launched. On February 22d of the same year it gave a notable entertainment to all the children of the members of the Wednesday Club and many outsiders. On May 6, 1896, it held a "peace arbitration" meeting, to which all the women's clubs of the city were invited. It entertained the Board of the General Federation, in the autumn of 1895, for three days, with as fine a display of hospitality as if it had been a biennial convention.

From the beginning it has had women in its membership distinguished in all the fields of woman's culture and progress. Its founder, Mrs. Sterling, was a well-known writer on social economics before that subject had been introduced as a department in women's clubs. She was also an influence in educational work, and one of the Board of Directors of the General Federation when it met in Chicago.

Among its presidents, besides Mrs. Sterling, was, for two years, Mrs. Philip N. Moore, the faithful corresponding secretary, for four years, of the

General Federation—a woman of extraordinarily strong yet gentle character and charming personality.

The president for 1897 is Mrs. Edwin Harrison; honorary vice-president, Mrs. Beverly Allen; corresponding secretary, Miss Sarah L. Tower.

Mrs. Beverly Allen is one of the oldest club-women in the United States, and was for many years the faithful secretary of the Wednesday Club. She is still a worker and a poet, though upwards of ninety.

The decorative colors used are white and gold. The membership is two hundred and fifty. The meetings are on alternate Wednesdays, as the name implies, and are held in the afternoon. The Wednesday Club joined the General Federation in September, 1891.

The Musical Club, of St. Louis, is the largest of the federated clubs of Missouri. It holds in active and associate membership between three and four hundred names, and its president is Mrs. Philip N. Moore, the corresponding secretary of the General Federation since 1894. Its sole object is musical culture. It employs both native and foreign talent, and by assuming a part of the guarantee fund has insured the return of the Damrosch Opera Company each winter for several years past to St. Louis.

Its work has raised the standard of musical taste, and brought within the reach of a large public the finest opportunities that this most pleasurable of the arts can supply. For this the city itself is its debtor, and the community recognizes this fact by its appreciation. The secretary of the association is Mrs. S. L. Tausig.

Business Woman's Club is composed of one hundred and eighty-five women, mainly young and self-supporting. It organizes special classes, and maintains noonday lunch on most economic and hygienic principles for its members. Its president is Miss Laura M. Eagan; secretary, Miss Louise Cullen.

Springfield Sorosis was born in a city of clubs in January, 1897. Starting with seven members, it reached sixty within the year, and presents a broader basis for work and life than the majority of the older clubs. It has already four working departments in active operation. These are current topics, art and history, tourist, and classic literature. Each one works from prepared programmes outlined for its special use by the chairmen of the respective divisions.



MRS. PHILIP N. MOORE,
President Musical Club, St. Louis, Mo.



MRS. ADELAIDE H. TOOMER,
President Springfield Sorosis, Mo.

The president is Mrs. Adelaide H. Toomer, who, with Mrs. Hardin, organized the first reading circle in the city in 1883. Out of this circle Friends in Council organized as a club in 1887, and is still living its pleasant and prosperous life, as told elsewhere.

Mrs. Toomer's long experience in club work fits her admirably for the position of chief officer in Springfield Sorosis, and the club bids fair to become a power in the community.

STATE FEDERATION IN MISSOURI

Missouri was the eighteenth State to form a federation of women's clubs. The beneficial results from organization, which seventeen States were proclaiming, awakened a keen interest in Missouri to share these privileges, and accordingly a systematic attempt was made during the autumn of 1895 to reach the clubs in the State, suggesting to them the advantages of co-operative work. This effort was made by the chairman of Committee of Correspondence for Missouri, Mrs. Laura E. Scammon, of Kansas City, and it was owing to her energy and enthusiasm that in December, 1895, the Wednesday Club, of St. Louis, took the initiative, sent out the invitations, and opened its hospitable doors for a convention to be held on the 21st and 22d of January, 1896.

The response to this call was most gratifying. Mrs. Henrotin, president of the General Federation, lent her presence to the occasion and did much to perfect the formation of the Missouri Federation of Women's Clubs.

The attendance was large and enthusiastic, promising from the first a successful and happy accomplishment of the object in view. Temporary organization effected, the convention opened with brief addresses. Mrs. Laura E. Scammon, State chairman for Missouri, presented an outline of the work already done and the benefits to the clubs from such a union of forces. The address of welcome, delivered by Mrs. Huse, president of the Wednesday Club, and response by Mrs. Hopkins, of St. Joseph, were received with applause, after which the session was devoted to three-minute reports from the clubs represented. The fifty-nine reports were full of interest, forming a basis of acquaintance, and showing the bright, eager, progressive spirit of the clubs throughout the State and the excellent work accomplished.

Mrs. Henrotin's remarks were a eulogy on women in general and a witty characterization of their influence in the world. "Tennyson tol-

erates us," she said; "Goethe is sorry for us; Heine marries us at last; Victor Hugo idealizes us; we never yet have been insulted by being simply liked by men. They hate us or love us, or have some active feeling about us." She contended that club life broke down the idea of caste among women, and emphasized always the one thing on which all social and moral reforms must be founded—union. She cautioned her hearers against letting club life shut out home, and suggested methods by which the husbands and children could have the benefits of the club.

Mrs. Scammon, who followed, spoke of the wonderful renaissance of learning among women through the educational opportunities offered by the club—an organization as nearly perfect as could be, one that included but one-half of humanity, giving reasons why it had been limited as to membership and scope. She believed, however, that the time had come for broader work, and advised clubs to introduce larger interests, lest they become afflicted with "club myopia, or parlor paralysis."

Mrs. E. C. Cushing, of St. Louis, followed with a brief but strong address upon "State Federation."

The vote was then proposed and passed unanimously, the assembly rising as one woman, to signify its desire to form a Missouri State federation.

The reception given in the evening by the Wednesday Club, at the rooms of the Mercantile Club, was as beautiful as perfect appointments and cordial hospitality could make it, and afforded a delightful opportunity for the meeting of old friends and the forming of new ones. Music, flowers, dainty refreshments, and a charming musical monologue were parts of the entertainment.

Wednesday morning was given to business. Reports of committees were received and discussed, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, a State federation was formed and fully officered, and the convention adjourned to meet in Kansas City in January, 1897. Sixty days is the time allowed to charter members in which to ratify the action of the convention and pay club dues. Luncheon was served in the Union Club rooms, after which the delegation visited the Wednesday Club in its regular session, joining freely in discussing topics related to general club life. Mrs. Philip N. Moore, as presiding officer, inspired the meeting with her own spirit, so serene and just, so prompt, yet so gentle.

The officers elected were: President, Mrs. John A. Allen, of St. Louis;



MRS. LAURA E. SCAMMON

vice-president, Mrs. G. L. Brinkman, Kansas City; recording secretary, Mrs. P. D. Fisher, of Hannibal; corresponding secretary, Miss Ada Elliott; treasurer, Mrs. M. T. McCluney, Sedalia; auditor, Mrs. A. O. Grubb, Kirkwood. To these officers, with a board of directors, was consigned the business of the organization. Kansas City was selected as the place for the first annual meeting of the federation in January, 1897.

The first annual meeting (1897) was held in Kansas City, Mo., by invitation of the twenty federated clubs of that progressive town. These included: the Alternate Tuesday Club, the Aspasian League, the Athenæum, the Bancroft, the Class of '93, the Clionian, the Ada Elkins Study Class, the Every Other Week, the Friends in Council, the History Club of '82, the Ianthe Circle, the Kindergarten Association, the Magazine Coterie, the Mothers' Union, the Portia Club, the Pierian Club, the South Side Literary Club, the Tuesday Morning Study Class, the Twentieth Century Club, the Woman's Reading Club.



MRS. JOHN A. ALLEN,
President State Federation, St. Louis, Mo.

The sessions occupied three days, 19th, 20th, and 21st of January. The convention showed an encouraging gain over the first meeting of the organization. Seventy clubs responded to the roll-call through their delegates, and the utmost harmony and good feeling prevailed. All that could be done had been done by the hostess clubs of Kansas City, and the good fellowship and sympathetic interest expressed better than words one of the first benefits of State federation. This spontaneous recognition from contact of mind with mind is nowhere so quickly felt as at the gatherings of club-women. Those who live in cities and have access to libraries are here brought face to face with the needs of women living in isolated towns, and are made to realize the urgent duty of every club-woman to interest herself in every movement which tends to the advancement of all womankind. The State federation is still in its infancy, but some educational and reform work affecting State legislation was undertaken and has been accomplished, and the formation of travelling libraries is being actively promoted.

With but one exception, the State officers were reelected to serve a second term, and Sedalia chosen as the place for the second annual meeting in January, 1898.

ELLEN D. LEE,

Chairman of State Correspondence.

Mrs. Henrotin was the guest of honor at this annual gathering, and made an address on the "Relation of State Federation to Club Extension"; Miss Julia C. Lathrop, of Rockford, Ill., commissioner of the State Board of Charities, made an address upon the "State Board of Charities"; and four State presidents were present: Mrs. C. O. Hansford, of Kentucky; Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough, of Nebraska; Mrs. W. D. Baird, of Tennessee, and Mrs. Willis Lord Moore, of Kansas. To these were added Miss H. C. Towner, as representative of Iowa, and together they furnished a symposium upon "State Federation."

The two standing committees formed are: education, Mrs. H. C. Wilner; and reciprocity, Mrs. F. W. Lehmann. Education has a sub-committee upon courses of study, the chairman of which is Mrs. A. O. Grubb.

Two notable features of the convention consisted of a paper upon the "Woman of the Twentieth Century," by Mrs. C. C. Cushman, president of the Wednesday Club, of St. Louis; the second, the music of the ladies' quartette.

Mrs. Laura E. Scammon wrote of club life in Missouri: "Club influence is a great, positive, rapidly increasing force."

Nearly seventy clubs are now enrolled in the State federation, and are greatly augmented in power by increasing unity of purpose. This is manifested not in and through the State federation alone, but by the plans for local unions in various places, by correspondence, the exchange of club courtesies, the awakening interest in club extension, and other indications of good-fellowship and community of feeling.

Of study clubs, Mrs. Scammon reported Kansas City alone as possessing fifty-seven, and St. Louis twenty-five, the latter larger in membership and constantly broadening in scope.

"Our clubs," she wrote, "discover a strong impulse toward lessening the exactions of purely literary work, that more time and thought may be given to the practical. Social and industrial problems are considered, as well as current topics.

"An active interest in educational methods is exhibited, also in the distribution of good literature, and the establishment of free circulating libraries. Women's clubs have aided in the introduction of free kindergartens, insti-



MRS. NOBLE PRENTISS,
of Kansas City, Mo., Representative Club
Woman; President Home for Aged
Women

tuted mothers' unions, and classes where young girls may be taught the intimate truths of human genesis. They have established and supported day nurseries, secured proper milk inspection, and charged themselves largely with the administration of public charity. In one city, at least, they have provided means of development and promoted self-culture among working girls; organized protective associations among business women, and been instrumental in noble institutional reforms. They have encouraged by means of prizes educational attainment, and fostered the college spirit among women; they have opened exhibitions of art to the public, placed reproductions of masterpieces upon the walls of school-rooms and institutions, and brought within the reach of the public the highest opportunities and pleasures which the science of music can bestow."

The second annual meeting of the Missouri State Federation was held at Sedalia, January 19th, 20th, and 21st. A reception by the Sedalia clubs to the delegates was given on Tuesday evening, the business sessions opening with an address of welcome, and the president's address the following morning. The reports showed seven additions to the sixty-eight clubs already recorded in the federation, bringing the number up to seventy-five, with a recorded membership of 3,450 women.

The programme, in addition to the addresses by representative club-women was arranged to group, as far as possible, the work done in different departments by the clubs of the State. Literature, civics, art, and household economics presented most interesting reports. The subject of travelling libraries was introduced by Dr. Dibble, of Kansas City, followed by Miss Mary Perry, of St. Louis, and received special attention. One paper among those sent, the "Bureau of Reciprocity," was read to the convention by its author, and warmly advocated the value of this agency for exchange and distribution among the clubs. Mrs. Frances Ford gave a fine paper upon the "Holy Grail," and an important address was that of Mrs. Laura E. Scammon, of Kansas City, State chairman for the General Federation.

The sessions were well attended, and the feeling very cordial and harmonious. There is a strong impulse towards the realization of the best interests in club life, and all the tendencies are in favor of a higher cultivation of mind and heart in the home, the school, and the State. The latest record received gives the officers—as president, Mrs. John A. Allen, St. Louis; first vice-president, Mrs. G. L. Brinkman, Kansas City; second vice-president, Mrs. Virginia Holland, Springfield; recording secretary, Mrs. P. D. Fisher, Hannibal; corresponding secretary, Miss Margery Ware, St. Louis; treasurer, Mrs. Mary F. McCluney, Sedalia.

Women's Clubs in Montana

MONTANA is a State of magnificent distances. Its social life is of but recent date, and its club life among women, of still more recent origin. Its sparse and scattered populations are separated by mountains and mines, by rivers and ravines, by rock-bound territory and limitless extent of plain.

"Vigilance" committees are still within the memory of the middle-aged, and the time is still remembered when the presence of a high hat was felt to be an insult to the entire community.

Time has been required to develop the gentler elements out of the nebulae which float in at the making of new States and Territories, and which, after a surprisingly short time, crystallize into peaceful communities and populous towns.

Montana has witnessed such a transformation within the past thirty years; and the influence of women here, as elsewhere, begins first in the formation of the home, and afterwards in the building up of social and educational influences in the community.

The objective point at which the woman's club develops is usually created by a personality.

In the case of Butte it was found in Mrs. Nettie E. Casper, who, in February, 1891, invited twenty women to meet at her house weekly for classical study.

The Homer Club.—Ancient Greek history was first taken up preparatory to the reading of Bryant's translation of the "Iliad" and "Odyssey." From the author of these works the club took its name. This programme, which was completed in December, 1892, was carried on by readings and by written accounts of the mythological characters mentioned in the text.



MRS. JENNIE H. MOORE,
President Homer Club, Butte, Mont.

In January, 1893, the club began the history of the early explorers of America—Norsemen, English, French, and Spanish. Irving's "History of Columbus" was read in connection with the papers prepared. The club discontinued readings in the fall of 1893, and "Roman History" was presented by talks and papers; 1895 was devoted to the "History of France." Until then the organization had been very simple, there having been a membership of twenty, with but one officer, a president. On May 13, 1895, the club, however, adopted a constitution and by-laws and elected a full corps of officers, and on June 20th was admitted to membership in the General Federation of Women's Clubs, being the first club in Montana to unite with that body.

Applications for membership are made to a membership committee and voted upon privately, only the accepted candidates being reported to the club.

In addition to the history and literary work, one evening in each month is given to current events, and all meetings are conducted in strictly parliamentary style. Dues are \$1, and the membership is limited to twenty-five.

The president is Mrs. J. H. Moore; vice-president and treasurer, Mrs. H. I. Drennan; secretary, Louise Hammond.

In 1897 the club was organized in departments, consisting of literature, politics, art, music, and current events. The work is assigned to committees under these heads.



LIBRARY AND WOMAN'S CLUB ROOM, BUTTE, MONT.

The Homer Club has brought a number of distinguished women speakers to the town, who have been listened to by audiences including many not members of the club. It has no club-house, but it is given the use of fine and convenient rooms in the Butte Free Public Library, where it feels entirely at home.

The colors used in decoration are green and white, but it has no insignia or flower.

The Woman's Club, of Butte, is the latest formed. It has for its object social and intellectual culture, and is organized upon the department plan, with an unlimited membership. It has six standing committees, represented

by art, music, literature, household economics, philanthropy, and social entertainment. It is the first club organized in departments, that is to say, beginning on that basis, and has already a large membership.

Butte has an Atlas Club, which meets every Friday, and has a membership of twenty women. The president is Mrs. A. B. Knight, and its work includes the fields of history, literature, and the home. It joined the General Federation in April, 1897.

Clionic Circle, of Columbia Falls, was formed in the autumn of 1893 by Mrs. A. E. Perviance, who associated with her two other ladies, Mrs. W. Read and S. I. Bum-
"Beyond the Alps lieth Italy."
 baugh, for the purpose of studying English literature. Four other ladies united with the class during the year. A text-book in English literature was chosen, and lessons were prepared as if it were a class in school. A little later some of the great masterpieces in literature were selected for study, and Mrs. Read was chosen leader or director. In the spring the work was diversified by taking up botany, Mrs. J. J. Kennedy conducting the recitations and assigning the work. Technical terms were mastered, and a systematic course of study in flower analysis, collecting and preserving, pursued with great success.

The membership grew apace, but thus far no attempt had been made at organization. The following autumn, however, a scheme of simple class government was perfected, and mythology and current events added to the curriculum. Rooms were then taken and furnished, books collected as a nucleus for a library, periodicals supplied, and a calendar prepared and printed.

The organization, by a natural process of evolution, from a class has grown into a club without change of officers.

The president is still Mrs. Read, the secretary Mrs. J. J. Kennedy, and the treasurer Mrs. T. W. Maine. These ladies have served continuously from the first election. Two were added for the first time during the past year, a critic and librarian.

It is not too much to say that this little circle of women has grown into an influential body; very steadfast, but not at all afraid, knowing well that "beyond the Alps lieth Italy."

Dillon has a Shakespearean Club, Livingston a Yellowstone Club, Deer



MRS. A. E. PERVIANCE,
 Founder Clionic Circle, Columbia Falls,
 Mont.

Lodge a Woman's Club, Missoula the Komis Club, and there are others, but no facts have been obtained in regard to them.

Helena has a Fortnightly Club, which joined the General Federation in October, 1897. Mrs. G. T. Frikes is the president, and it is devoted to literary study.

The Nineteenth Century Club of Kalispell.—To the woman of the new West the modern missionary has been the club; at first small and misunderstood, gradually developing power within and without, until its bonds of national and State federation have made it a living chain of helpful, useful womanhood.

"To women of all ranks in life it has come as a help. To the women of narrow lives, filled with a routine of household duty, it has come as a blessing."

In the infant town of Kalispell the need developed early, and the second year of its existence a reading circle of three women was formed, which quickly grew to twelve, and formed the nucleus of a permanent and widely beneficial organization.

The founder of the Nineteenth Century Club was Lydia A. Stevens, then of Kalispell, Mont., now of Wellesley, Mass.

After a few weeks spent in studies and conversation upon "Mary Queen of Scots," it was decided to organize as a "tourist" club, travelling via Duluth and the Great Lakes to New York, and thence across the Atlantic, through Ireland, Scotland, and England to the Continent.

The work was assigned in alphabetical order, and the meetings at the houses of members were full of interest. But at the close of a year it was felt that a more formal organization was needed, and an election was held (September, 1894), at which Mrs. Mary Dixon Edwards was made president, an office she has continued to fill ever since. At the same time a simple constitution was adopted, and the "History of Civilization" decided upon as a general subject, with topics beginning from the earliest times to the development of art, letters, science, architecture, and civil government.

The outline of topics was made by Miss Sedgewick, and the course has been steadfastly adhered to with great profit and pleasure to the membership.



LYDIA A. STEVENS,
Founder Nineteenth Century Club,
Kalispell, Mont.

The name of "tourist" no longer expressing the work of the club, in October, 1896, was changed to the "Nineteenth Century Club," and a revised and more formal constitution adopted.

The club meetings are occupied during the first hour by notes upon current events, and the remainder of the afternoon is given to papers and discussion on the topic for the day. Following this is a short business meeting, when the secretary's report is read.

The work is assigned by the president, and is conducted by a different leader each week.

One afternoon in the month is given to the study and practical illustration of parliamentary methods.

This year (1897) the Nineteenth Century Club joined the General Federation, and issued for the first time a regular calendar and programme of work.

An outgrowth of the club is a "Woman's Board of Trade," with village improvement and library work as special features.

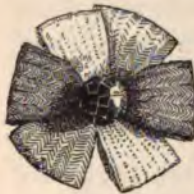
This organization received its motive power from the Nineteenth Century Club, and is in a most active and flourishing condition.

The Montana State Housekeepers' Association was organized in Bozeman March, 1895, by Mrs. S. M. Emery, who became its president. The intention was to encourage and stimulate interest in more scientific methods of housekeeping and to cultivate modern thought and literature upon the subject among the wives of farmers and ranchers living in isolated places. This work is to be partly accomplished by bringing them together at stated intervals, partly by a "woman's page" in the *Stockman and Farmer*, edited by Mrs. Emery, and by creating an interest in the larger questions relating to the home and domestic life.

The society met at once with a most cordial reception. Prominent men, as well as women, endorsed its aims and were willing to aid its work. Meetings were held on the first and third Mondays of each month from September to June, and papers were read upon "Sanitation," "Physical Culture," "Healthful Dress," "Care of Children," "Foods," "Education," "Heredity," "Practical Village Improvement," and



MRS. M. D. EDWARDS,
President Nineteenth Century Club,
Kalispell, Mont.



"The Development of Educational Resources." These subjects were discussed with a view to the formation of a public sentiment and its dissemination over a wide territory.

Members are drawn from all parts of the State, though the headquarters are at Bozeman.

In April, 1897, an election was held, at which Mrs. S. M. Emery was re-elected president; Mrs. E. A. Maynard, of Madison, vice-president, and Mrs. Thomas Lewis, corresponding secretary. The motto, "Our kingdom is our home," was selected; the wild rose as the flower; and for colors, white, black, gold, and copper, representing the mining interests of Montana. Ribbons in these colors are made into a looped rosette with a black centre, for insignia.



MRS. S. M. EMERY,
Founder and President Housekeepers'
Association, Montana

In view of the fact that much of the early history, oral and legendary, of Montana is disappearing, the association decided to collect and preserve, through its representatives in every part of Montana, all such local legends of interest as can be obtained, and have appointed a general historian to take charge of the work. It was also decided, in order to vary the meetings and make them as useful and interesting as possible to women coming from distances, to give a few moments to parliamentary drill,

a brief time to current events, and to vary the more serious work with music and readings. It was decided also to appoint a leader for each topic, whose business it is to prepare and distribute a series of questions upon that topic, so that each member may come prepared to consider the subject from its various points of view.

The effort to make every member participate in the work frightened many, reduced the membership, and kept some at home who had been drawn to the meetings by the social element in them.

The later and more definite organization has had the effect of centralizing the interest, but it is creating a body of women whose influence will be stronger and in time wider, and will do much broader work. Undoubtedly the association will grow into a State organization, for its field is as unlimited as its possibilities, and its work of forming auxiliary societies is already begun.

Nebraska

STATE FEDERATION

THE Omaha Woman's Club, the largest, though not the oldest woman's club in the State, was the active agent in the initiation of the State federation.

On November 26, 1894, it sent out through Mrs. J. T. Lindsey, chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, an invitation to a convention to be held in Omaha on the 10th and 11th of December, to organize a State federation, auxiliary to the General Federation.

Through this circular letter the exact purpose of the meeting was well understood, and the indicated programme strictly adhered to. Thirty-nine delegates and nineteen visiting club members were present, and were entertained in the homes of the members of the Omaha Woman's Club.

Mrs. Lindsey was made permanent chairman of the convention, and Mrs. A. B. Somers permanent secretary. The first afternoon was given to the consideration of the federation idea, preceded by a cordial address of welcome from Mrs. F. F. Ford, the president of the Omaha Woman's Club. Mrs. Laura E. Scammon, of Kansas City, had kindly responded to the invitation to be present and assist the convention. Her suggestions were of value, and helped to expedite business. She addressed the gathering on subjects relating to federation and its possibilities. Augusta J. Chapin, D.D., talked on "State Education as an Educational Factor"; Elia W. Peattie read a paper on "The Moral Utility of Federation," and Mrs. Laura N. Woodford, of Weeping Water, spoke also on the uses of State federation.

The chairman appointed her committees, and the meeting adjourned at the stroke of the hour for closing.

In the evening a reception was held in the club-rooms, at which gentlemen were present. These rooms were fitted up by the club. They are very cheerful, tasteful, and quiet, and already associated with many delightful occasions. The club colors being yellow and white, they were decorated with chrysanthemums of those colors on the evening of reception, and nearly all present wore the colors. A mandolin orchestra, the presence of many beautiful young girls who served ices and tea, the brightness of the rooms,

and the large attendance made the occasion a very enjoyable one. Many of the delegates were women living in very small towns or on farms. They were women of thoughtful minds, and with more concentration of purpose, perhaps, than many of the city women they met. This opportunity for the comparison of ideas and the interchange of opinions was very much valued. An atmosphere of extreme friendliness was apparent. The amusing town prejudices, almost inevitable in a new State, began to vanish. The women from the college towns, Lincoln and Crete, who were wives of the professors, and themselves intimately associated with the development of the young colleges, contributed their quota. The federation was an assured fact before the evening was past, and the benefits of it were already to be seen.

The next morning found the committees ready to report. The business proceeded without pause or hindrance. An encouraging letter was read from Mrs. Henrotin. The reports of the delegates were listened to. Some of these were very entertaining. One club, of Plattsmouth, confessed that it had been organized the night before, and sent its delegates by the early morning express. The representatives of the Johnson Club described their town as having three hundred and fifty souls, and a woman's club with only ten members, whose study thus far had been the Nebraska State constitution.

The Monday Club, of Wayne, had formed for two purposes—that of study, and of forming a library for their young town. The library had become a fact, and numbered five hundred volumes, which were free to all. The Woman's Club, of Lincoln, was but three weeks old, but numbered two hundred and ten charter members. This was really the amalgamation of several small clubs, some of which have been in existence for years.

The constitution, as adopted, was simple and concise, and made to conform with the constitution of the General Federation. Considerable debate was indulged in, and every detail finally arranged to the satisfaction of all.

Mrs. James Canfield, wife of the chancellor of the Nebraska University, was made president; Mrs. Elia W. Peattie, a literary woman of Omaha, was elected vice-president; Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, of Seward, was chosen secretary; Mrs. J. W. Dawes, wife of ex-Governor Dawes, of Crete, was elected treasurer. Mrs. Laura Woodford, of Weeping Water, former State chairman for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, was made auditor.

The clubs joining the federation as charter members were ten: Nineteenth Century Club, Kearney; Woman's Club, Fremont; Woman's Literary Society, Crete; Zetetic Club, Weeping Water; Round Table Club, Crete; Current Events Club, Lincoln; Junior Sorosis Club, Lincoln; Woman's Club, Omaha; History and Art Club, Seward; Nineteenth Century Club, Aurora.

Some of the delegates present were not authorized by their clubs to join in the beginning, but it was expected would do so in the near future.



OFFICERS OF STATE FEDERATION OF NEBRASKA

Mrs. B. M. STOUGHTONBOROUGH, President

FRANCES A. NICHOLS, Treasurer

HENRIETTA I. SMITH, Secretary

ELIA W. PEATTIE, Ex-Vice-President

ELIZABETH J. LINDSAY, Chairman of Correspondence

The *Woman's Weekly*, published at Omaha, was made the official organ of the federation.

The convention adjourned after passing a motion to unite the State with the General Federation.

At a meeting of the State Executive Board, held in Lincoln, on Wednesday, April 21, 1897, the following resolution was moved and adopted: "Moved by Mrs. McKillip, of Seward, that we adopt the resolution of the General Federation in regard to education; and that we recommend as a means of furthering this educational work in the women's clubs of Nebraska, that special attention be given next year in the following departments: child study, American history, and applied economics; and that we hereby recommend as a basis for material for study in these departments the *North-Western Monthly*, published in Lincoln, Neb., and also that we ask the General Federation to consider the work and methods set forth in said magazine."

"We assume such an interest in this great movement for child study, in the broader study of American history, and in applied economics that we urge upon every federated club in Nebraska to give special attention to these departments. This is practical university extension, as these departments, in the *North-Western Monthly*, are to be conducted by professors in the University of Nebraska, and every club-woman should take pride in helping to make this work a success." This was followed by the creation of an "Outside Educational Forces Department" in the *North-Western Monthly*, with Mrs. Frances M. Ford as the editor.

Within the year of organization, the president, Mrs. Canfield, removed from the State, and the annual meeting at Lincoln in 1895 was presided over by Mrs. E. W. Peattie, a well-known writer of Omaha, and one of the committee for the formation of the State federation.

The programme presented some able papers. The machinery adjusted itself more perfectly, and an important committee, that on the "travelling library," was appointed. The convention adjourned with forty clubs on its roll of membership, and Mrs. A. W. Field, of Lincoln, in the executive chair.

A year later the women of Fremont entertained the clubs, emphasizing the social feature by an elaborate entertainment, the only one with which the federation has ever been honored. The programme here concerned itself with more vital topics than had been presented before, the travelling library received a considerable enlargement, and the federation itself became the richer by the addition to its membership of fifteen more clubs.

The election at Fremont resulted in the choice of Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough as chief officer. There sometimes comes to organizations an era when elements, having been put in solution, crystallize into form, and some

stand out in relief. That time had come to the Nebraska federation, and Mrs. Stoutenborough was recognized as the woman to place at the helm. Her force of character, her tact and sweetness, and her capacity for thinking in straight lines and avoiding side issues, are invaluable in an organization made up of many and diverse elements.

The lines of work which the federation encourages in the local clubs are three in number, namely: 1. To secure more artistic surroundings for school children and to give them acquaintance with good pictures. 2. To improve the sanitary conditions of villages and towns, and to beautify streets and parks. 3. To foster public libraries and to aid educational progress through books. The Omaha Woman's Club is the exponent of the first of these ideas. Its prize competition for the best collections of prints gathered together by children has placed a few pictures upon the walls of Omaha school-rooms, while the collecting itself served its purpose of cultivating discrimination and taste in arranging. This club has also a loan collection of Braun photographs, framed and of good size, which is passing from school to school.

The second line of work has apparently appealed most forcibly to the women of the Lincoln clubs, and their city improvement society might well serve as a model for every town in the State.

A conference on the three kinds of recommended work was one of the features of the Beatrice meeting, and it must have been stimulating to the clubs, for it was thoroughly practical. Mrs. Hartford, of Omaha, led the discussion on art; Mrs. W. L. G. Taylor, of Lincoln, on village improvement; and Mrs. M. B. True, of Tecumseh, on libraries.

A most consistent and logical programme was presented at Beatrice under the general topic of "Mother and Child," and it made such an impression that it was voted to give one session of each annual meeting hereafter to the discussion of this subject. The programme was arranged and conducted by Mrs. Ricketts, of Lincoln, who gave an earnest address upon the "Responsibilities of Mothers." Mrs. Heller, of Omaha, discussed "The Mother and the Kindergarten," convincing her hearers at every point of the close relationship and interdependence of these two factors, from the standpoint of the child's development. Mrs. Field, of Lincoln, read a forcible paper on the duty of the mother to know something of the school and the teacher to whose influences she commits her child, and Miss Cowan, of York, gave a report of the National Congress of Mothers held in Washington. Mrs. Van Vechten, of Iowa, read a paper on "Household Economics." She thought the public work for women should start from the home and work outward.

On the last afternoon of the meeting there was a debate on the question, "Shall We Have Mixed Clubs?" It was led by Mrs. Hollenbeck, who thought that men and women should work together in the club as in the church, and

by Mrs. Welton, of Auburn, who replied that the time of meeting in that case, since it must needs be in the evening, would be the strongest argument against the plan, since at that time women should be in their home and with their children. The discussion brought out a good deal of wit. It left the question, however, "as it was in the beginning," though the general impression seemed to be that the time of the mixed club was not yet.

One of the symptoms of increasing wisdom in the councils of the federation was the arrangement into three sessions, each of which was devoted to a specific subject, as above noted: First, the recommended work; second, the mother and the child, and third, the basis of the club as related to our "men and brethren." The discussion of a single topic from different standpoints is worth infinitely more than the miscellaneous firing at a score of subjects by as many addresses and papers.

Another sign of growth was the presence upon the platform of no less than three presidents of State federations. The danger of provincialism is to be avoided by one method only, that of association. The club broadens the individual, and the State federation enlarges the vision of the club; but there must be as close an alliance as possible with the General Federation and with such part of it as is at hand, if the spirit of the club movement is to be perpetuated. Mrs. McClintock, president of the Kansas State Federation, made an interesting report of the work of the Kansas clubs, and their growth, since the formation of the State organization.

In the line of village improvement, especially for sparsely settled districts, the first and last thing needed is books. The first thing a club needs for itself is books. The first missionary effort that occurs to it is to get them for other people. So clubs throughout Nebraska are aiding any local movement toward a library for the public use.

Letters from Mrs. Henrotin and Mrs. Julia Ward Howe were among the interesting features of the Beatrice convention, though much disappointment was felt because Mrs. Henrotin was not present in person. Omaha was selected as the place for the annual meeting of 1898, the Omaha Woman's Club being the hostess of the occasion.

The address of the president was the expression of an ideal to which it is impossible to do justice. Her preface was a reference to the famous speech of Edmund Burke when he made such frequent use of the watchword "Federation." She employed a unique method to explain her ideas, applying the fundamental rules to the divisions of State federation affairs in order to bring forth the equation, enthusiasm, and the final sum of all activity, unity.

The officers of the Nebraska State Federation are: President, Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough, Plattsmouth; vice-president, Mrs. E. M. Cobb, York; secretary, Mrs. H. Smith, Omaha; treasurer, Mrs. M. B. Nichols, Beatrice; audi-

tor, Mrs. E. S. Larsh, Nebraska City; librarian, Mrs. G. M. Lambertson, Lincoln.

There are now seventy clubs in the Nebraska State Federation, and applications for membership constantly arriving. The women are in earnest. A wave of enthusiastic desire for social and mental improvement is sweeping through the small towns and remoter districts, and needs only the help of women in more favored localities to become an intellectual crusade.

To fully understand what State federation has done, it is well to consider that more than two-thirds of the clubs now auxiliary to it were co-existent with it, and would never have been formed at all but for the permanence of organization and the wider range of thought which union with it and the General Federation promised. In one town of about fifteen hundred inhabitants there had been no literary organization of any kind for ten years previous to this movement. The same is true of many other towns on these prairies, each with its quota of intelligent, well-educated people, transplanted from the cultured atmosphere of older States, who had become discouraged by the difficulties of their environment, but who are now developing State pride, and are enthusiastically alive to all the privileges of federated clubs.

Art is made interesting by the aid of photographic reproductions and the stereopticon. Seventy-five dollars have been raised by one club for prizes to be offered to four different grades of the public schools for the best collection of portraits and wood-cuts of architectural designs.

Agreeing with Emerson that "the culture of good manners is even more important than mental culture," the clubs frequently have open meetings for the benefit of the husbands and gentlemen friends of members, and have become an acknowledged social factor, often being called upon to assist in entertaining distinguished municipal guests.

Club-women are prominent in every charitable organization in the State. Economics give a stated sum each month to the Travellers' Aid, which takes under its guardianship girls who come as strangers to the city and who might otherwise go astray.

A federation library, under the management of Mrs. Elia W. Peattie, is of great advantage to those clubs which do not have access to public libraries. Its well-chosen books are sent out on the travelling-library plan, circulating from club to club as soon as read.

The steady growth of federation and individual clubs is the best endorsement of its usefulness, and proves the movement to be one of the grandest of a century already replete with great things accomplished for woman's advancement.

One half-day upon the official programme of the thirty-second annual meeting of the State Teachers' Association of Nebraska was given, by invita-

tion, to the State Federation of Women's Clubs in December, 1897. The addresses were made in ethics by Mrs. Stoutenborough ; in art, by Mrs. Langworthy ; the club intellectually, by Mrs. P. T. Buckley ; physical culture, Mrs. C. D. Schell ; and music : its æsthetic value, by Mrs. F. W. Ford. This brought the clubs in direct relations with the educational forces—a most valuable step in progressive development.

It is significant that the women of Nebraska, in organizing, through their elected representatives, the Woman's Department of the Trans-Mississippi and International Exposition, turned aside from the example set them by Chicago, Atlanta, and Nashville. They deliberately cut themselves off from the *cclat* associated with the Board of Lady Managers in order that they might give themselves to the work of advancing educational interests. It looks now, however, as if "all these things shall be added unto them," for they are to be domesticated in the Building of Liberal Arts, with jurisdiction over many beautiful and artistic exhibits, and if they miss the social glorification which might be theirs under the usual plan of organization, they may gain the quiet approval of those who appreciate the impetus they are trying to give to educational progress.

The woman's department is known as the Bureau of Education. It consists of twenty-seven women, chosen from Omaha, South Omaha, Council Bluffs, and the six congressional districts of Nebraska, with an advisory council composed of two women from each trans-Mississippi State. Their first bulletin was sent out in July, 1897. It outlines the scope of collective educational exhibits, inviting States, counties, schools, and educational institutions embraced under thirty-two classes to display their work. The classes include kindergarten, graded and high schools, music, art, technical, Indian, and parochial schools, institutions for the defective and delinquent classes, and the leading outside educational institutions, libraries, women's clubs and societies.

The bureau presents a unique scheme of competitions, open to enrolled pupils of all grades, and covering the subjects of history, composition, penmanship, manual training, drawing, and nature study. The premium list specifies topics under each head, adapting them carefully to the different grades, and in this work the women have had the assistance of educators from all sections of the country. The competitions close April 15, 1898, and immediately after that date medals will be awarded, the number required to fulfil the conditions of the premium list being over four hundred, and the prize-winning exhibits will be placed in the educational department of the exposition.

There is to be no woman's building. The work of women is to be placed beside that of men, and that of one sex is to be judged by the same standard as that of the other.

The Travel Club, of Washington, was founded in 1880, and derives its name from the method it adopted in travelling through different countries by proxy.

Its officers are a guide, a courier, and a travelling correspondent. Its sessions were always held at the Strathmore Arms, an historic house that has been the home of many famous men and some women. The programme of the evening consists usually of two papers, the discussions they bring out, and music. Among noted people who have entertained the club with interesting papers in the years of its existence are General Logan, George Kennan, Olive Logan, Senor Romero, the Mexican Minister; ex-Minister Foster, Governor Boutwell, Dr. Chickering, A. R. Spofford, Librarian of Congress; Mrs. J. W. Foster, Mrs. J. C. Burrows, and Dr. Chas. Knight; while it is but just to say that some of the best papers have been given by the working members of the club who are unknown to fame.

The Zetetic Club, of Weeping Water, organized June 14, 1884, has the double distinction of being the oldest woman's club in the State and the first Nebraska club to join the General Federation.

"Mutual good-will and mental growth."

The five charter members were: Mrs. Laura M. Woodford, Ida P. Ingersoll, Lena B. Chase, A. A. Miller, and H. D. Travis. The three first named are still active members of the club.

The regular meetings are held every third Saturday during the year at the homes of the members.

The work began with the study of American authors and history contemporary with their lives. One year was spent in ancient Greece, another in Rome. The Reformation and a study of its leaders claimed another year. Memories were refreshed and nerves tried by a review of the French Revolution, and contemporary history of other nations. Literary epochs have been studied, including the Elizabethan age and the era of the Concord philosophers. One year was spent in the improving company of illustrious women of all ages, beginning with Sappho and closing with the last "Lady of the White House." Two years were devoted to Shakespeare's plays, and were thought quite inadequate for their satisfactory study. 1896-97 was given to the early Teutons: the people, the country, and the literature. More enthusiasm for the work was shown than in any previous year.

Interspersed through these studies have been several years of miscellaneous programmes, with varied topics touching science, art, household economics, home-making, character-building, and kindred themes. As Zetetic is not a departmental club, the programmes have been diverse and ambitious. Music has been a pleasing feature of the later programmes.

It would be impossible to adequately estimate the benefits accruing from



ZETETIC CLUB, WEEPING WATER, NEB.

MRS. LAURA M. WOODFORD, Founder

MRS. LENA B. CHASE, Representative Member MRS. KATE P. DUNHAM, President

this organization. It has served to strengthen sisterly loyalty, has broadened lives that are more or less circumscribed in small towns, and has aided in developing much latent talent.

Mrs. Woodford, founder of the Zetetic Club, and to whom much of its success is due, has, ever since its organization, been chairman of the Executive Committee. She is also president of the club for the present year. In 1891 she was corresponding chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation, and in 1895 auditor of the State federation.

Mrs. Ingersoll has been secretary of the club continuously since its organization, with the exception of one year, when she served as president. Her long term of office proves the excellence of her work.

Mrs. Dunham is last past-president. Under her efficient and tactful guidance the club members made marked improvement as parliamentarians.

Mrs. Chase, elected representative member and historian, is charter member, has been treasurer, and always has held some executive position.

"A group of the whole club," says the historian, "would be its only fitting representative, for every member is a working member."

The club motto is "Mutual good-will and mental growth"; club color, corn; club flower or emblem, bitter-sweet (truth). It was federated in November, 1891. Its only insignia is the pin of the General Federation.

The Renaissance Club, of Lincoln, was founded in 1882. Its record is one of painstaking work.

The first seven years included a minute review of the Italian renaissance, American history from the mound builders to the Civil War, growth and development of American constitutional history, Greek classical writers and their works, Roman classical writers and their works, and German literature. With one exception, the members are wives of attorneys. The husbands often meet with the club by invitation, and on such occasions are equally represented on the programme, essays and reviews, question and debate occupying the time exactly as when only members are present. It is a hard-working club, meeting bimonthly at members' houses.

Lincoln Sorosis, of Lincoln, was founded in November, 1889. The only elected officer was a secretary, Mrs. A. J. Sawyer. The organization proposed to elect a chairman for every meeting, and the first was Mrs. W. J. Bryan. The meetings were bimonthly, and held in the evening at the members' houses, the limit of membership placed at twenty-five.

The subject assigned to each meeting was selected by the chairman, who was usually the hostess of the occasion, and gave the opening paper, which was afterwards freely discussed.

The subject proposed by Mrs. Bryan was "Henry George and the Single Tax." Other subjects considered were "The Indian Question," "Relations of United States with Canada," "Alaska and Its Resources," "Emerson and His Philosophy," "The Presidential Veto Power," and "French Literature."

Later more formal organization placed Mrs. Bryan in the presidential chair, and other able members have succeeded to the leadership, but the debate is still an important feature of the work, which deals largely with national subjects.

The History and Art Club, of Seward, was founded in 1891 by Mrs. S. C. Langworthy, who was its leader, and has remained its presiding officer since its organization. Its work has covered the literature and social aspect of the periods and countries which have been successively studied, as well as the history. Time has also been given during the last three

years to the important events of the present day.

The answers to roll-call are by quotations, and the development of the work shows gratifying increase of participation on the part of the members.

The annual programmes or year-books have obtained a reputation beyond the club, and been instrumental in the formation of four similar organizations by supplying constitutions and outlines for their guidance.

The club gives every year a free course of lectures to the public upon art, history, literature, or some department of science. These lectures are anticipated with great interest, and have done much to extend the educational influence of the club. Public entertainments have been given for charitable purposes, and

"No footsteps backward," an occasional reception with literary features to the husbands and friends of members.

The Marguerite is the flower used for decorative purposes, and the colors are corn-color and white; the motto, "No footsteps backward," expresses the aim of the club.



MRS. S. C. LANGWORTHY,
President and Founder of History and
Art Club, Seward, Neb.



MRS. J. CASTLE,
Representative Member History and Art
Club, Seward, Neb.

Mrs. Langworthy is one of the directors of the Associated Charities of the State of Nebraska, and the club was a charter member of the State federation.

Mrs. J. Castle is one of the earliest and most representative members of the History and Art Club.

The Fremont Woman's Club was organized about the middle of December, 1893. A few weeks previous Miss Marion Horsford, of Charlotte, Vt., had arrived in Fremont as the guest of Mrs. G. C. Brown. Miss Horsford was well versed in history and literature. She was an active club-woman, and acquainted with the Ladies' Literary Club, of Grand Rapids, Mich. Miss Horsford soon became the centre of a group of women in Fremont who wished to form a literary and social organization.

After a few informal gatherings a meeting was called at the home of Vesta Gray, at which twenty women were present. A constitution, resembling the constitution of the Grand Rapid's club, was adopted, and a temporary organization completed with Vesta Gray as chairman and Mrs. J. A. West as secretary. On the afternoon of January 5, 1894, Miss Horsford was elected first permanent president. Her absence from the city left the office in the hands of Miss E. Clark, vice-president. There were sixty-six charter members, who have grown to a present membership of upwards of two hundred.

Mrs. J. F. Reynolds is now president. She is a firm and non-partisan chairman, always cordial and candid; a most excellent officer. Mrs. H. G. Walcott and Miss Spickard are good workers and representative club-women.

On October 8 and 9, 1896, the club had the honor of entertaining the Nebraska Federation of Women's Clubs. Its duty was carried out by receiving the delegates and visitors at the trains with carriages, providing hall, free hospitality, and the giving of a banquet, at which four hundred were seated.

Of its events, the "open meeting," held at the close of the club year, is perhaps the most varied and interesting.

The programme of the first one was called the "Club Magazine." The editor, Mrs. W. H. Clemens, sat at her desk in front of the audience, with all the usual editorial machinery and disorder about her. She read her editorials, the rest of the "magazine" by the authors or a substitute. There were two short stories, a sketch of Sorosis of New York, a poem, book reviews, and club notes.

A later programme was a patriotic one, and called "America."

The club has a musical department, which is a source of great pleasure. It presents very carefully prepared programmes. Nebraska is famous for its women's musical societies.

The Omaha Woman's Club began with the desire of a few women, in the the spring of 1893, to organize a large club on the department plan, which would unite many of the smaller club interests.

"Touching life with upward impulse." The first meeting was held on March 29th. At a

second, upon April 9th, Mrs. Ford, formerly of the Orange Woman's Club, gave a brief outline of the work of that club, and Mrs. Peattie followed with a sketch of the important and far-reaching effects of the work of the Chicago Woman's Club. Over one hundred and twenty-five women were present at this meeting, and a committee consisting of Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Keysor, Mrs. Duryea, Mrs. Van Tuyl, and Mrs. Andrews was appointed to formulate some definite plan, and to report April 11th. An increased attendance at this meeting was indicative of the increased



MRS. FRANCES M. FORD,
Founder Omaha Woman's Club, Neb.

interest in the subject. Mrs. Towne was called to the chair, and Mrs. Fleming chosen secretary. The committee reported favoring the immediate formation of such a club, and suggested that departments be formed at once and provisional officers elected. After a recess in which eighty-three names were enrolled as members of the new club, a committee on constitution was appointed consisting of Mrs. Hanchett, Mrs. Ford, Mrs. Cross, Mrs. Van Tuyl, and Miss McCague, to report at the next meeting. Mrs. Towne was elected provisional president; Mrs. Harris, provisional secretary; and Mrs. Neely, provisional treasurer.

At the meeting of April 24th one hundred and sixty-eight names were counted on the roll. The Committee on Constitution presented its report, and a formal constitution was adopted.

The first regular meeting of the club was held Monday, May 8th, in Metropolitan Hall. An interesting programme had been prepared by the provisional officers on the subject of the kindergarten. Those who had signified their intention of becoming members were now asked to sign the constitution and pay the annual dues of three dollars. About one hundred and fifty responded, which placed the club upon a firm footing. Departments were formed in art, literature, history, education, political economy, social science, and mental and moral philosophy. At the annual meeting, held May 22d, officers of the club for the year 1893-94 were elected. Later the president resigned, and the Executive Committee, by virtue of the powers vested in it by the constitution, accepted the resignation, and appointed Mrs. Savage president. The Board of Directors consists of the elected officers, the heads of departments, and the chairmen of the following standing committees: membership, auditing, house and home, constitution and rules. The secretary, Mrs. Harris, sent in her resignation July 21st on account of removal from the city, and Mrs. Lindsey was appointed to fill the vacancy. Without further changes the list of officers has remained as follows: President, Mrs. J. W. Savage; first vice-president, Mrs. E. R. Towne; second vice-president, Mrs. A. S. Stiger; secretary, Mrs. Z. T. Lindsay; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Frank Heller; treasurer, Mrs. Frank M. Richardson.

On October 2d the first regular meeting of the new year was held, and since that time the club has met regularly every second Monday at 3 P.M.,

with the exception of December 25th, when the meeting was deferred one week and a formal reception held by the members of the club, to which gentlemen were invited.

Departments of psychology, philanthropy and reform, current topics, and music were added during the year. The plan of the club is to have each member register in one or more of these departments, which meet regularly, in most instances every two weeks. The programmes for the general meetings of the club are presented in turn by the different departments, each one being required to furnish at least one programme in the year. The membership has increased to five hundred, and is active in every department of work. The president (1897) is Mrs. Lillian R. Harford, an able woman.

The musical department of the Omaha Woman's Club has set a high standard. A "Wagner" day was a fitting preparation for a lecture by Walter Damrosch on "Die Walküre." It has also heard an illustrated lecture by Miss Enid Smith on "Modern Song Writers."

By the vote of the art department of the Omaha Woman's Club, its collection of photographs of the old masters, numbering three hundred pictures arranged in fourteen portfolios, has just been placed in the federation library for circulation.

The *Woman's Weekly*, edited by Miss Farebrother, is an outgrowth and the organ of the Omaha Woman's Club. It is also the organ of the Nebraska State Federation, and very helpful in keeping the clubs in touch with each other.

To-day few citizens of Omaha would be willing to part with this club, its loyalty to the best interests of the city having won for it the respect of all. It has, best of all, united the women of Omaha, breaking down the barriers of class and clique and sectionalism which the rapid growth of the city had erected, and it has developed a spirit of good-fellowship which means more than merely intellectual growth. It is not so much a group of classes for study as an association of women working together, and, in the words of the motto, "Touching life with upward impulse."

The Woman's Club, of Beatrice, was organized September 29, 1894, through the instrumentality of Mrs. A. Hardy, now of Denver, Colo. The



MRS. LILLIAN R. HARFORD,
President Omaha Woman's Club, Neb.

membership became one hundred and sixteen within the first year, and was divided for work into five departments: current events, current literature, domestic science, music, and art. The programmes under these committees have been interesting and profitable. The musical department is an especially active one. Lectures have been given upon "Health" and "Dress Reform," which were illustrated, and upon "Cookery," practically demonstrated. These have opened a field for household improvement, and inspired housewives with ideas as to ways and methods of which they had long felt the need.

Such helpful influences flowing out in different directions, silenced opposition, and have made the woman's club an influence along many lines. The motto is "Self-culture is the basis of all culture"; the club flower, the pansy; the insignia, a badge of royal purple ribbon, on which a pansy is painted.

The Stromsburg Woman's Club, with twelve charter members, was organized on Thanksgiving Day, 1894, by a small band of women under the inspiration of Miss Julia S. Haskell. The first year the time was given to miscellaneous topics, including discussion of current events and the great question to club-women, that of State federation. At the end of the year the first anniversary was celebrated, the guest of honor being Mrs. Elia W. Peattie, then vice-president of the State federation. To this anniversary gentlemen were invited, and a very beautiful dinner was served, the decorations in the club colors, white and green, under the soft light of innumerable wax candles, producing a charming effect.

A "parlor talk" by Mrs. Peattie at the home of Mrs. J. A. Frawly proved a great help and inspiration in the club work. The success of the anniversary, which, in brief responses to toasts, had sketched the history, aims, and possibilities of the club, and, through Mrs. Peattie, the uses of State federation, gave exactly the information and stimulus needed by the young organization.

The men gave it their approval and cordial coöperation.

The following September the club met and reelected its president, Miss Julia S. Haskell, sent a delegate to Lincoln to the annual meeting of the State federation, and took up again the study of American history. The programme at the end of the year, when this work was completed, represented "A Mock Senate Up to Date," each member personating a senator, and the business "following copy" as nearly as possible.

In the autumn of 1896 Mrs. J. A. Frawly was elected president. English history was chosen as the study, and a new feature introduced in the way of an "open meeting" once a month, to which husbands and other guests could be

invited. A programme consisting of current topics was proposed for these meetings, the first given on Thanksgiving evening, November 26th, which was also the anniversary. Miss Farebrother, the editor of the *Omaha Woman's Weekly*, was the guest on this occasion. While the club owes much to the efforts of its founder, Miss Julia S. Haskell, and to its second president, Mrs. Frawly, it is felt that its great success has been due to the combined energy of thirty enthusiastic and untiring club members, each contributing in her own way to raise the standard of club excellence.

The club flower is the sweet elysium, and the motto, "No one is sufficiently wise by himself alone." The secretary and historian is Mrs. I.



MISS JULIA S. HASKELL,
Founder and First President Stromsburg
Woman's Club, Neb.



MRS. J. A. FRAWLY,
Ex-President Stromsburg Woman's Club,
Neb.

Makeever. As a result, through the club the members have been brought more in touch with liberal culture, progressive ideas, and the active spirit of the times. Its true desire is to use self-culture for the elevation of sex and race.

The Woman's Club, of Lincoln, was organized November 17, 1894, with two hundred and sixty-five charter members. It closed its second year with three hundred and twenty-eight members, and interest in "The truth shall make you free." the same ratio.

The founders were Miss Phoebe Elliott, Mrs. J. H. Canfield, and Mrs. H. H. Wilson.

It was started as a department club, with eight active committees—upon current events, literature, science, civics, domestic economy, art, parliamentary practice, and physical culture.

The club meetings are on alternate Mondays. The department meetings are held at the residence of the chairman or some member. Leaders of departments, manage their work and, with their committee, arrange the programmes for club days.

The object of the association is to "stimulate intellectual and moral development, to promote good fellowship among its members, and to strengthen by organization their individual efforts for humanity."

The following twelve kinds of women are considered eligible for membership, and are admitted by sending name, accompanied by fifty cents, to the treasurer, who presents them at the following meeting for election. Only dissenting ballots are deposited in the box, and ten exclude from membership: "The university graduate; the woman of common school education; the self-educated woman; the woman who belongs to other clubs; the non-club woman; the woman who does not believe in clubs; the woman who does not wish to join a department; the woman who wants to attend the club meetings but twice a year; the woman who wants to be a member

for the name of it; the tired woman, full of domestic responsibilities, who wants to be a sponge, fold her hands, and take in what the bright woman, who needs an audience, has learned; the woman without companionship; the young woman, and the young-old woman."

The officers are: President, Mrs. A. A. Scott; vice-president, Miss Elliott; secretary, Mrs. J. L. Parsons; treasurer, Mrs. J. F. Hutchins.

The Nebraska Conservatory of Music is at Lincoln, and frequently enriches the meetings of the woman's club with selections of great merit. The Lincoln Woman's Club, aided by other women's organizations, has entertained the State federation, and is the centre of the State educational movement. The University of Nebraska is established there, and the *North-Western Monthly* is published in Lincoln, and



MRS. A. A. SCOTT,
President Woman's Club, of Lincoln,
Neb.

employed as the organ of the educational work of the State federation.

The Lincoln City Federation began by informal meetings of women representing several of the small clubs in existence, and developed an interest so genuine that it was thought desirable to perfect a permanent organization.

A large number of clubs and classes were called together in the beautiful home of Mrs. L. C. Richards, in October, 1894. A constitution was adopted

and eighteen clubs entered into compact with much friendliness and harmony.

The constitution adopted provided that all business should be done by a board of directors, two from each club, and the general meetings held four times each year; each club in its turn to be represented on the programmes of these meetings. An important clause in the constitution provides that the officers and directors are to be elected annually, and no one could serve two years in succession, thus preventing any possibility of "rings" or "cliques" enforcing arbitrary rulings or policies. The sum of twenty-five cents per capita was fixed upon as the annual fee.

The Woman's Club, of Plattsmouth, was organized December, 1894, with Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough as its president and active leader.

The club was organized with four departments—literature, parliamentary law, music, and art.

The membership being limited, all were represented in the departments, but naturally some have been more successful than others. *"To some, the landmarks of new domain."*

The art and literature departments have reviewed early English life and literature, studied the beautiful creations of Phidias, Alcamenes, Praxiteles, and other Greek sculptors; have gone down into Egyptian tombs, or to Pompeii and Herculaneum, searching for examples of painting and architecture.

The Parliamentary Law Committee had for its leader an able woman, Mrs. Travis, who at once made her committee a centre of interest. On one occasion it was called together for a "town meeting," and upon other occasions for some form of municipal agitation and discussion.

A notable event in the history of this division was the presentation of a session of the national Senate for the year 1910. This was given as an entertainment, and a fee charged for admission. It was a great success financially, and a very witty and taking entertainment, much enjoyed by men as well as women.

The musical department has added much to the interest of the regular meetings, besides giving two "open" musical entertainments, with Mrs. Atwood as the leader.

The members of the committee were assisted by Mrs. Noble, of Lincoln, and Mrs. Sherman, of Crete; also with a paper by Professor Skinner, of Nebraska City, on the "Art of Reading," and recitations in song and story, by Mr. N. K. Griggs, of Lincoln.

The art department has Mrs. Snyder for leader, and has recently presented very interesting papers on the "Renaissance" and the "Florentine School."

The president reelected for 1896-97 is Mrs. B. M. Stoutenborough; vice-president, Mrs. C. E. Butler; recording secretary, C. Holloway; corresponding secretary, T. Hemple; treasurer, Edna Adams.

The department of household economics, added in 1897, has discussed the food products of Nebraska, and the detail of household service, cookery, and management.

Under the head of current literature, short stories, child writers, and some books and authors, have been discussed.

The president of the Plattsmouth Woman's Club is also the president of the State federation.

Its colors are pink and white; its flower, the pink carnation; its motto: "To some, the landmarks of new domain."

The annual reception to gentlemen is given on New Year's day at the club-rooms. These entertainments are so much enjoyed that the gentlemen have invited the club members to a return banquet, where in Greek draperies, over their ordinary attire, they entertained them with the music of mandolins, melodies, and a sumptuous dinner.

The Friends in Council, of Tecumseh, was founded February 13, 1895, with eight charter members. The object was stated as being "to consider the conduct of life in all its relations, and endeavor to answer the question, How to live?"

The officers elected were: Mrs. B. D. Chittenden, president; Mrs. E. Chamberlain, vice-president; Mrs. Mary Carman, secretary and treasurer.



MRS. BLANCHE D. CHITTENDEN,
First President Friends in Council,
Tecumseh, Neb.



MRS. SARAH ROOD,
President Friends in Council,
Tecumseh, Neb.

Constitution and by-laws were adopted, and the membership limited to twelve.

An interesting programme was arranged for the year, and meetings arranged to be held semi-weekly at the homes of members.

The president is Mrs. Sarah Rood. The club colors are pink and white, and the emblematic flower, pink and white carnation.

The Woman's Club, of Nebraska City, was founded October 26, 1895, with twenty-nine members, increased during the year to one hundred and four.

The founders were Mrs. Ellen J. Ware and Mrs. M. E. Skinner. The latter was made the president, and Mrs. Emma Shuman corresponding secretary. Departments were formed in arts, domestic science, literature, current events, history, and philosophy.

The object was, "to stimulate intellectual development, to promote unity and good fellowship among its members, and to strengthen, by organization, individual, philanthropic, and reformatory effort."

The first studies in literature were of the English authors in the reign of Elizabeth, followed by the novelists, and the Lake school of poetry.

The department of domestic science has engaged much attention, and the questions have been diversified, but very practical.

An active worker in the club and a representative member is Mrs. R. A. Ditmar, who is the leader of the Domestic Science Committee.

The motto of the club is from Pope: "To raise the thought and touch the heart, be thine."

The decorative color is scarlet, and the flower the American beauty.

The Woman's Club, of York, was originally the G. L. S. Class, but in 1896 organized as the woman's club, with a limited membership of twenty-five.

The studies are principally in history, literature, music. The programmes are, however, miscellaneous, and frequently introduce questions in regard to home life, education, and topics of the times. There are also discussions following special topics and papers.

The president (1897) is Mrs. E. M. Cobb; vice-president, Mrs. L. S. Fergusen; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Kate B. Northup; treasurer, Mrs. F. B. Daggy.

There is a committee of five members to arrange programmes, and these frequently introduce current topics, or practice in parliamentary law.

The club colors are royal purple and gold; the motto: "Alterum alterius auxilio eget." (From one to each, from each to all.)

The Town and County Club, of York, dates from June 17, 1897. York

is a county seat, and has a city federation of five clubs. At a meeting of this organization in May, a resolution was offered that an effort be made to bring town and country together by forming a town and county club. This was adopted, and the president appointed a committee of five, one from each club, to carry out the plan proposed.

With a map before them, the committee made a list of women who might be called upon in the different townships to aid in such an enterprise. Sixty-five were gathered in this way, and a circular letter addressed to each, asking them to interest the women in their neighborhood in such an object. To their great surprise, they received in return the names of seven hundred women, and to each of these they sent an invitation to a picnic to be held on the Court House grounds, June 17, 1897.

The picnic was a great success, and then and there was organized the Town and County Club of two hundred farmers' wives. The president writes, "We are growing, and the interest does not flag."

The club is well organized; it has rented and furnished three rooms, a "rest room," a small kitchen, and a commodious hall for the meetings. The rooms are open all the time, and the members can bring their lunch, make their tea, and rest after their shopping.

The first study was American history, but once a month some one reviews a book, and opinions are beginning to be expressed.

The president lives in York, and was ill on the occasion of one of the meetings. A member who had driven twenty miles across country to be at the meeting was called upon to preside, and did so most satisfactorily.

The club has begun the study and discussion of "Valuation of Property in the Country," "Causes of Accretion in Value," "Distribution of Taxes," and "Employment of Tax Funds."

The club-room, as yet, has neither books nor pictures, but from the president of the State federation, Mrs. Stoutenborough, it received a Christmas gift of a barrel of magazines. This meant more than can be imagined to the mothers and children of the Town and County Club.

New Hampshire

THE Shakespeare societies were the first literary organizations of women formed in the State.

The Shakespeare Club, of Manchester, had its origin in the early seventies. Six young women (who builded better than they knew, and who are now styled "the immortal six") aspiring to something above routine, came together in an informal way to study the works of the "Bard of Avon." They met regularly every Monday afternoon, and sought for fundamental meanings and to give correct expression to them. In time it was thought best to widen the circle, and six women, gifted along certain lines, were invited to join them. Then was organized the Manchester Shakespeare Club, that has since attained its majority.

Mrs. Sarah S. Reynolds was its first president. Written opinions of the plays, characters, and incidents were added to the work, much to the benefit and enjoyment of the club. In 1895, through the efforts of the Manchester Shakespeare Club, a city federation was formed, which the Manchester Shakespeare Club joined, as well as the General Federation of Women's Clubs. Very few members have ever left the club; most of them have followed its fortunes for nearly a quarter of a century with unflagging interest, and it has been very dear to them. The club has three honorary members, one of which is Edward Scott Snazey, grandchild of the president. He has been in touch with the club since his babyhood, and is held in admiring regard by every member as a youth of great promise and as a mascot of great generosity. The prospects for the club are bright, indeed, and a band of more willing workers cannot be found. The club is limited to twenty-five members, and the annual election takes place in May. The officers are: President, Mrs. Lydia A. Scott (six times reelected); vice-president, Mrs. Josephine S. Latham; secretary, Mrs. Addie Prescott Clark; literary director, Miss McDougall.

The Shakespeare Club, of Concord, was organized January 25, 1877, at the home of Mrs. S. C. Whitcher. Its primary object was reading and study of Shakespeare's plays, and the criticisms of them by standard writers. The club, limited to sixteen active members, has met to perfection the requirements laid down by Portia:

"For in companions
That do converse and spend the time together,
Whose souls do bear an equal yoke of love,
There must be needs a like proportion,
Of lineaments, of manners, and of spirit."

The club meetings are every Monday afternoon, from the first of November to the last of March, inclusive, at the homes of the members, and its officers are president, vice-president, and secretary. A treasurer is chosen *pro tem.* when money is to be raised for any purpose, but there are no dues or fines.

Mrs. Frances C. Stevens was the first elected president, and has been reelected every year during the twenty of the club's existence. The long and happy life may be in part due to the spirit which has animated its study of Shakespeare; not a spirit of criticism, not placing the letter of the text above its spirit in importance, but reading the great master for pleasure and for the profit which inevitably follows. This is supplemented by study of the tragedies and historical plays, and by reading the best Shakespearean critics, American and European.

The Stratford Club began in 1881. Mrs. Ellen R. Morrill called together a few women for the purpose of reading English history; she did not realize that she was becoming the founder of a Shakespeare club, yet such was the fact. As a part of the work in history, Shakespeare's English historical plays were read. These proved so interesting that it was decided to read only Shakespeare.

In the fall of 1883 the Stratford Club was formally organized, with Mrs. Matilda S. Thompson as president, and a membership limited to sixteen.

In those earlier days, when to the average woman a constitution was an unknown quantity, and by-laws something to fear and tremble at, this little group of women were fortunate in having among their number Miss Frances M. Abbott. To her, not only as the framer of the constitution, but as the one who has always insisted that it should be "lived up to" in every detail, is largely due the success of the club.

No essays or papers are required, but the reading is done carefully under the supervision of a critic. Plenty of time is given for discussion, not only of the text itself, but of those matters of history, ethics, the stage—in short, those thousand and one things which the page of Shakespeare cannot fail to suggest to the open mind.

The officers are all rotatory, so that not only the work but the educational value is evenly distributed. The presidents, whose terms are limited to three years, have been Mrs. Matilda S. Thompson, Mrs. Sarah E. Hamilton, Mrs. Ellen R. Morrill, and Mrs. Osmar C. Morrill. As the secretaries can serve

but one year, nearly all the members have acted in this capacity. This office is no sinecure, for they have an elaborate system of fines, beginning with a five-cent fine for each tardiness or absence. Three consecutive absences require the fine to be doubled unless leave of absence is obtained.

The social life is quite distinct from the work. It consists of an annual "field" day, when an excursion is made to some other part of the State; the celebration of Shakespeare's birthday, and receptions given occasionally by the members of the club. In 1895 Shakespeare's birthday was celebrated by giving a tea at the "Shakespeare Room" to all the Shakespeare clubs in Concord.

The Avon Club began in 1883. Its originator was Miss Helen McGregor Ayers.

In the following year a course of lectures upon the historical plays of Shakespeare was given by Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson, and this club studied those plays in connection with the lecture course, and adopted the name of the Avon Club.

To the nine original members two were added the second year and seven in the year following. The membership is limited to sixteen. There have been thirty-two members up to this time, only two of whom have been removed by death. The constitution provides for a president, vice-president, and a secretary, who also serves as treasurer.

In the reading of a play at least two afternoons are occupied, one member serving as critic. Historical papers are written, sometimes a synopsis of the play, and the club makes use of any available helps to the proper understanding of what is read. The memory is frequently exercised by repeating quotations and endeavoring to locate them correctly. Committees of three are appointed to arrange for the readings of each month.

This club always celebrates the birthday of "the immortal bard" in some appropriate way. For one of these occasions a colloquy was prepared of quotations from the plays, which was deemed worthy of being loaned to a club in another city, to be used at a similar gathering.

"As You Like It" started in the autumn of 1884, when a dozen young ladies agreed to spend an afternoon, weekly, in reading for mutual improvement, and formed what was then called "The Junior Club." The society was not pledged to the reading of Shakespeare by either its name or intention, and at various times other authors have been enjoyed, but with the unvarying result of a return to the works of the great dramatist.

From November to May, for the past two years, the club has met fortnightly, and a new name has been adopted, "As You Like It." Many pleasant winter and summer outings have been enjoyed; and that the two hours, reading, supplemented by the social hour, has proved a most happy com-

bination is clearly shown by the unusually large average attendance through this, the twelfth season.

Monday Evening Shakespeare Club was organized in March, 1888, with sixteen members. Miss Belle Eastman was the originator, and Miss Mary J. Sanborn the first president.

The membership was at first composed of ladies connected with the First Baptist Church, but neither constitution nor by-laws have made close communion obligatory, and the admittance of new members has not been governed by written (or unwritten) laws in this respect.

The meetings are held in the Shakespeare room of the public library, and the president is Mrs. C. P. Clough.

It was in the fall and winter of 1894 that a few young ladies made a quiet canvass among a few neighbors and friends, and as a result, on Wednesday evening, February 21, 1894, a class of twelve met in the Shakespeare room, with Miss Frances M. Abbott, the well-known Shakespearean student, as leader and instructress. At this meeting the club formally adopted the name **Hathaway Shakespeare Club**. For the first two winters the club was not regularly organized; but October 21, 1895, a constitution was adopted, and officers elected. At this time the membership was extended to sixteen, with one honorary member. In October, 1895, the club was enrolled as a member of the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs.

Last winter it was voted to read without instruction. Each member serves as a leader during one evening, her duties being to assign parts and preside over the meeting. There is a short business session, consisting of roll-call, reading of the minutes of the previous meeting, and attending to any matters that may properly come before the meeting.

The officers are: President, Eva B. Sanborn; vice-president, J. Blanche Newhall; secretary and treasurer, Ruth A. Minot.

The Twelfth Night Club was founded March 12, 1895. Its president is Mrs. Emma F. Williams, and it has eighteen members, including two associates. It meets weekly from the first Tuesday in October to the last Tuesday in April, inclusive; and in 1895, by vote of the class, the reading was continued through May. The Twelfth Night Club belongs to the State Federation of Women's Clubs; is active, progressive, and keeps pace with the onward movement of the times.

The purpose of this club is not merely to read a given number of plays, but to get out of a play all possible knowledge. A leader is elected for the year's reading, who assigns the literary papers, designates the characters, and conducts the examinations and criticisms. The roll-call is answered by some item of current events. A carefully prepared synopsis of each act is read, then the dialogue. The definition of doubtful words is looked up,

the meaning of involved sentences is made clear, all mythological and historical allusions are explained, places mentioned are located, the literary style is discussed, the analogies between different plays are cited, deductions of each important character are given, and if it be historical, comparisons are instituted between Shakespeare's representation and the impressions derived from other sources.

Each play is set against the background of its own time, country, and historical and political environment. For instance, the club proposing to take up a series of historical plays, began with "Coriolanus," giving full papers on the history of Rome, from its beginning to the time of the tribunes, bringing out clearly the strife between the rulers and the plebeians, the revolts, the overthrow of the kingdom, and the establishment of the republic. A sketch of the geography of Italy helped the understanding of the continual struggles of the Romans with the adjacent tribes. The reading of "Julius Cæsar," next in sequence, apart from the interest attaching to the discussion of the character and achievements of "this foremost man of all this world," made necessary a knowledge of the factions and ambitions of the senators, the pretexts for the numerous wars carried on, a study of Cæsar's Gallic campaigns, and the invasion of Britain, which will render easy and natural the transition to the study of the historical plays of England's kings, which will be taken up next year.

The success of the plan of study has been gratifying, the attendance is satisfactory; the membership of the club, limited to sixteen, is full, with a goodly waiting list. The members of the Twelfth Night Club are earnest, enthusiastic workers.

The Shakespeare Room has existed since October, 1888, when Mr. and Mrs. W. P. Fowler, of Boston, made to the city of Concord, which had formerly been their home, the gift of a public library building. By a happy thought they supplied a long-felt want by setting apart and deeding the best room in this building to the use of the Shakespeare clubs exclusively and forever. On April 23d of the following year, Shakespeare's three hundred and twenty-fifth birthday, Mrs. Abba Goold Woolson gave a lecture to raise money for the furnishing of the room. The proceeds of this lecture, amounting to something more than \$113, were expended under the direction of a committee of ladies from the Shakespeare clubs.

Since then something has been added every year by clubs, or individuals. Mrs. Witcher, the founder of the first Shakespeare Club of Concord, appropriately made the first gift, a pair of brass andirons. Many are the cheery wood-fires that have blazed on the open hearth. Other gifts of note are the Valpy edition of Shakespeare, and the Warwick banner from the late Mrs. E. H. Rollins, fine steel engravings from Mrs. B. A. Kimball and Mr. J. C. A.

Hill, and the bust of Shakespeare, once owned by President Pierce, by him presented to Judge Upham just before the owner departed for the Mexican War, by Judge Upham's daughter, Mrs. J. B. Walker, presented to the Shakespeare room. Many souvenirs of European travel have also found their way to this room.

In 1896 a legal corporation was formed under the title of "Trustees of the Shakespeare Room." Each club selects a trustee, who serves for a term of three years. This board is empowered to receive gifts, to make rules regarding the use of the room, and to levy, when needed, a small annual tax from each club for cleaning, furnishing, or repairs.

At present the room is apportioned during the Shakespeare season as follows: the Avon Club, the first and third Monday afternoons of each month; the Stratford Club, the second and fourth Monday afternoons; the Monday Evening Club, all Monday evenings; the Twelfth Night Club, Tuesday afternoons; the Warwick Club, Tuesday evenings; the Hathaway Club, Wednesday evenings.

Every year Shakespeare's birthday is celebrated in some manner by some club in this room. On April 23, 1894, there was a gathering of the clans, the only time that the whole Shakespeare population of the town has ever been summoned to the tinkling of the teacups. It was the Stratford Club that offered a simple hospitality to her sister societies.



MRS. LILIAN CARPENTER STREETER,
Founder and President Woman's Club, of Concord

The Board of Trustees consists of: President of the corporation, Miss Annie A. McFarland, Avon Club; clerk, Miss Frances M. Abbott, Stratford Club; Mrs. Frances C. Stevens, Shakespeare Club; Mrs. Mary Parker Woodworth, Warwick Club; Mrs. Alice E. Clough, Monday Evening Club; Miss Eva B. Sanborn, Hathaway Club; Mrs. Emma F. Williams, Twelfth Night Club.

The Woman's Club of Concord.

"In society an altogether new set of spiritual activities are evolved in man, and the old immeasurably quickened, and strengthened. . . . The solitary man were but a small portion of himself, and must continue forever folded in, stunted, and only half alive."

The need of a woman's club in Concord was not met until April 21,

1893, when a meeting was called at the residence of Mrs. L. C. Streeter, who explained the object, presented the draft of a constitution, and effected an organization composed of the thirty women present, excepting two.

Mrs. Streeter was elected president; Ella H. J. Hill, vice-president; Mrs. Elizabeth G. Blanchard, recording secretary; Miss Edith H. Carpenter, corresponding secretary; Mrs. A. W. Hobbs, treasurer; and Mrs. E. L. Walker, auditor.

The object of the association was stated to be "to form a social centre for united thought and action."

The membership very soon increased to seventy-five, the limit being placed at one hundred.

The work was organized under committees upon art and literature, education, current events, domestic economy, science, philanthropy, and music.

The vice-president and the five members of the Executive Committee became by virtue of their office chairmen of the standing committees, and these, with the general officers, formed a governing board, having charge of all the business affairs of the association.

In 1894 the Concord Club was the only woman's club in New Hampshire that had joined the General Federation, and its president believed it to be the only organized club of women in the State. At the biennial of the



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PRESENT MEETING PLACE OF WOMAN'S CLUB OF CONCORD

General Federation in Philadelphia, she heard through a woman from Maine of a woman's club in North Conway, organized in 1892, and therefore antedating the Concord club by a year. These two clubs were scarce sixty miles apart, yet did not know of each other's existence, although inspired by the same motive and working toward the same ends.

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NEW HAMPSHIRE STATE FEDERATION

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Mrs. Blair made an admirable address, and, except the "forestry" paper, all were by members belonging to the federation. The officers elected and

reelected at this meeting: Honorary president, Mrs. Lilian C. Streeter, Concord; president, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair, Manchester; vice-presidents, Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, Concord, Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway; recording secretary, Miss Caroline E. Whitcomb, Keene; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Olive Rand Clarke, Manchester; treasurer, Mrs. Helen M. Murkland, Durham; auditor, Mrs. Cora Kent Bell, Exeter.

The second "field" meeting was held at Plymouth, in July, 1897, and lasted four days. A flood interfered with the attendance, but the exercises were full of interest. Having a less formal and business character than the annual meetings, these semi-annual summer gatherings are more social and stimulating to good fellowship. The first address was by Mr. A. E. Winship, editor of the *New England Journal of Education*, upon "Woman as a Leader." There was a musical accompaniment to the next, which was by Alice C. Fletcher, of Washington, D. C., upon "Indian Music."

The first evening was given to a reception. The last evening to brief talks by club women upon subjects connected with club work. The meeting was an inspiring one, and a great help to those who attended.

The second annual meeting was held at Somersworth, October 27th to 29th, inclusive. It was in all respects a success. The attendance was large, and the hospitality of the Somersworth Woman's Club anticipated every possible need. There was an added stimulus in the presence of the honorary president, Mrs. L. C. Streeter, who assisted the officers and the local committee in receiving on the first evening, at a social gathering which formed a delightful introduction to the club women of Somersworth and the days that followed.

Mrs. Susan K. Knapp, president of the Somersworth Woman's Club, made the address of welcome, responded to on behalf of the federation by Mrs. Sarah A. Blodgett, of Franklin. The annual reports were read, showing that eleven clubs had been added during the year. "What Forests and Shady Roads Mean to New Hampshire," by Mrs. M. E. Woodman, of West Lebanon, was an admirably written paper. It was a strong plea for the preservation of a heritage of beautiful scenery and the improvement of highways.

At the afternoon session the first paper was given by Mrs. John B. Varrick, of Manchester, a "Study in New Hampshire State Charities for Children." It was a clear statement of the work done by the State board of charities for the dependent children, and the conditions that surround them, and a strong argument for the placing of these children in private homes instead of institutions.

The paper was warmly received, and stimulated considerable discussion. During the discussion the condition of the insane in some of the county alms-houses was referred to by Mrs. Blodgett, and a committee was appointed to draw up resolutions upon the subject.

Miss Emma Fairbanks, of Nashua, gave a very interesting paper upon "Child Study in Clubs." Miss Fairbanks is teacher of the public kindergarten in Nashua, and thoroughly imbued with her subject.

"The Ethical Value of Art in the Public Schools" was an able paper by Miss N. F. Peirce, principal of the Farragut School, in Portsmouth, upon a subject which is now interesting educators throughout the country. It was listened to with deepest interest.

The president's address, and a paper by Mr. F. Gowing, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, upon "How the State Federation Can Benefit Public Schools," interested a large audience in the evening, aided by charming music.

Friday morning was given to the summing up of the year's business. The Committee on Education, consisting of Miss Harriet L. Huntress, of Concord; Mrs. O. C. Moore, of Nashua, and Mrs. Harriet Burlingame, of Exeter, was reappointed. A committee on sociology was formed, consisting of nine members, to represent three departments of the subject: Mrs. Robert Burns, of Plymouth; Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, of Concord; Mrs. C. J. Allen, of Peterborough; Mrs. Katherine L. Wright, of Keene; Miss Mary H. Young, of Dover; Mrs. A. A. Perkins, of Somersworth; Mrs. John W. Staples, of Franklin; Mrs. Frances U. Lockhart, of Manchester; Mrs. M. E. Woodman, of West Lebanon.

A committee on forestry was formed, consisting of Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway; Mrs. Olive Rand Clarke, Manchester, and Mrs. Susan H. Knapp, of Somersworth.

The Committee on Resolutions reported:

Whereas, The New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs has pledged itself to promote the highest interests of the State, and having had brought to its notice the deplorable condition of the insane in some of our county almshouses;

Resolved, That the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs lend its influence toward creating a public sentiment throughout the State for the better care and more systematic supervision of this class of our dependent poor;

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to investigate and report at the next annual meeting the methods which scientific investigation has shown to be best adapted to secure the proper care of the indigent insane.

The following officers for the ensuing year were unanimously elected: President, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair, of Manchester; vice-presidents, Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, Concord, and Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway; corresponding secretary, Miss Kate Runnels, Nashua; recording secretary, Mrs. A. A. Perkins, Somersworth; treasurer, Mrs. Kate H. Brown, Whitefield; auditor, Mrs. Ellen L. McLane, Milford.

Mrs. Olive Rand Clarke, of Manchester, was chosen delegate to the biennial session of the General Federation to be held in Denver in June next, and Mrs. Lilian C. Streeter, of Concord, alternate.

An invitation from the Milford Woman's Club to hold the next annual meeting at Milford was accepted. An invitation from Mrs. Margaret T. Yardley, of the New Jersey federation, to hold the next field meeting at her summer home at Lake Sunapee, was also accepted.

Votes of thanks to the Somersworth Club, which had done so much to promote the success of the meeting, and to the retiring officers, were adopted, and the second annual meeting of the New Hampshire federation adjourned. It was a bright, intelligent body of women assembled here, full of earnest purpose and aspiration "to promote the highest interests of the State," as well as for mutual helpfulness; and the strength and stimulus gained here will bear good fruit hereafter.

Of the thirty-two clubs which formed the first membership of the New Hampshire State federation, Manchester claims seven; Concord, four; Durham, two; Exeter, two; Portsmouth, two; Keene, two. Twelve other towns were represented by one each. The oldest are the Shakespeare Club, of Manchester, organized 1873, and the Stratford Club, of Concord, founded in 1883.

The State federation of New Hampshire was admitted to the General Federation in November, 1895. Its colors are green and silver. Its motto, "In principle, like our granite; in aspiration, like our mountains; in our sympathy swift and far-reaching, like our rivers."

The following letter from the president of the State federation, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair, summarizes the situation and will be read with interest. She writes:

" JANUARY 20, 1898.

" We met in Concord, October, 1895, and formed a State Federation of Women's Clubs without appointing committees, except on badges and pins. Mrs. Streeter, our president, was soon taken ill, and so remained through the summer; so when we came to the first annual meeting, which (until a short time before it occurred) we hoped she might preside over and lay out a plan of general work, she was not able to be present, and we were not able, at so short notice, to decide upon more than one committee—that upon education. After that meeting, responsibility being thrown upon me, I studied the situation carefully, and at a field meeting held in Plymouth last July, in conference with our women, laid a plan of work before them which was followed at our annual meeting at Somersworth. We are now at work; our clubs have doubled in number; our women are earnest, of great general ability, and thoroughly equipped for whatever they undertake. They are now studying

the situation, which cannot be done by copying from outside, because we are confronted by different conditions from most federations.

"We have few cities, and they are small; we have large rural districts, but they are by no means missionary fields. We find in them some of our most cultivated, dependable women. Our country clubs are very strong. To exchange our wealth of vigorous thinking which belongs to the hills for the different mental thought of cities and to unite both upon public questions is our desire. Training of teachers, school methods, morals and environment of children in school, street and country road, care of the defective and dependent, municipal cleanliness, prevention of slums, preserving God's gift of exceeding beauty to our hills and valleys, is the labor upon which our minds are set. On these lines our committees are carefully laying out their work.

"Sincerely yours,

E. N. BLAIR."

The year book of the New Hampshire State federation for 1897-98 records forty-three clubs, representing twenty-two towns. Of these, Manchester leads with eleven clubs, one of which is a club of clubs—a flourishing city federation. It works under six departments, and takes the place of a large department club, as it admits members of other clubs, independently of the bodies to which they are accredited.

Concord has four clubs; Durham, two; Exeter, two; Peterborough, two; and all other places one each.

The present list of officers embraces: Honorary president, Mrs. Lilian C. Streeter; president, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair; vice-presidents, Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, Mrs. Ellen M. Mason; recording secretary, Mrs. Harriet B. L. Perkins; corresponding secretary, Miss Katherine L. Runnells; treasurer, Mrs. Kate Howard Brown; auditor, Mrs. Ellen L. McLane, Milford.

The only honorary member is Mrs. Margaret Yardley, of East Orange, N. J. The summer meeting (1898) will be held, by her invitation, at her summer home, "Sunapee," N. H.

The State chairman of correspondence for General Federation of Women's Clubs is Mrs. Mary P. Woodsworth, of Concord.

The committee work of the State is done under education, sociology, and forestry. The chairmen are: Mrs. H. L. Huntress, of Concord; Mrs. F. U. Lockhart, Manchester, and Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway.

Nashaway Woman's Club, Nashua, was founded May 29, 1896, by ten women who met by invitation at the home of Mrs. E. F. McQuesten for the purpose of considering such a project.

The organization was at once effected, and so large a number of ladies



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The first annual meeting was held in Manchester, October 14 and 15, 1896, and was an exceedingly earnest and spirited gathering. There was a fine paper and discussion upon the "Attitude of Church Members towards the Woman's Club Movement"; an address by the secretary of the New Hampshire forestry commission upon "Women's Work in Forestry"; an excellent paper upon "Our Flag," and an educational symposium in three divisions: "New Hampshire in Educational Matters," "Women on School Boards," and "A Plea for Manual Training." Other subjects treated were: "New Hampshire in Charities" and "Growth in Literature and Art."

Mrs. Blair made an admirable address, and, except the "forestry" paper, all were by members belonging to the federation. The officers elected and

reëlected at this meeting: Honorary president, Mrs. Lilian C. Streeter, Concord; president, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair, Manchester; vice-presidents, Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, Concord, Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway; recording secretary, Miss Caroline E. Whitcomb, Keene; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Olive Rand Clarke, Manchester; treasurer, Mrs. Helen M. Murkland, Durham; auditor, Mrs. Cora Kent Bell, Exeter.

The second "field" meeting was held at Plymouth, in July, 1897, and lasted four days. A flood interfered with the attendance, but the exercises were full of interest. Having a less formal and business character than the annual meetings, these semi-annual summer gatherings are more social and stimulating to good fellowship. The first address was by Mr. A. E. Winship, editor of the *New England Journal of Education*, upon "Woman as a Leader." There was a musical accompaniment to the next, which was by Alice C. Fletcher, of Washington, D. C., upon "Indian Music."

The first evening was given to a reception. The last evening to brief talks by club women upon subjects connected with club work. The meeting was an inspiring one, and a great help to those who attended.

The second annual meeting was held at Somersworth, October 27th to 29th, inclusive. It was in all respects a success. The attendance was large, and the hospitality of the Somersworth Woman's Club anticipated every possible need. There was an added stimulus in the presence of the honorary president, Mrs. L. C. Streeter, who assisted the officers and the local committee in receiving on the first evening, at a social gathering which formed a delightful introduction to the club women of Somersworth and the days that followed.

Mrs. Susan K. Knapp, president of the Somersworth Woman's Club, made the address of welcome, responded to on behalf of the federation by Mrs. Sarah A. Blodgett, of Franklin. The annual reports were read, showing that eleven clubs had been added during the year. "What Forests and Shady Roads Mean to New Hampshire," by Mrs. M. E. Woodman, of West Lebanon, was an admirably written paper. It was a strong plea for the preservation of a heritage of beautiful scenery and the improvement of highways.

At the afternoon session the first paper was given by Mrs. John B. Varrick, of Manchester, a "Study in New Hampshire State Charities for Children." It was a clear statement of the work done by the State board of charities for the dependent children, and the conditions that surround them, and a strong argument for the placing of these children in private homes instead of institutions.

The paper was warmly received, and stimulated considerable discussion. During the discussion the condition of the insane in some of the county alms-houses was referred to by Mrs. Blodgett, and a committee was appointed to draw up resolutions upon the subject.

Miss Emma Fairbanks, of Nashua, gave a very interesting paper upon "Child Study in Clubs." Miss Fairbanks is teacher of the public kindergarten in Nashua, and thoroughly imbued with her subject.

"The Ethical Value of Art in the Public Schools" was an able paper by Miss N. F. Peirce, principal of the Farragut School, in Portsmouth, upon a subject which is now interesting educators throughout the country. It was listened to with deepest interest.

The president's address, and a paper by Mr. F. Gowing, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, upon "How the State Federation Can Benefit Public Schools," interested a large audience in the evening, aided by charming music.

Friday morning was given to the summing up of the year's business. The Committee on Education, consisting of Miss Harriet L. Huntress, of Concord; Mrs. O. C. Moore, of Nashua, and Mrs. Harriet Burlingame, of Exeter, was reappointed. A committee on sociology was formed, consisting of nine members, to represent three departments of the subject: Mrs. Robert Burns, of Plymouth; Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, of Concord; Mrs. C. J. Allen, of Peterborough; Mrs. Katherine L. Wright, of Keene; Miss Mary H. Young, of Dover; Mrs. A. A. Perkins, of Somersworth; Mrs. John W. Staples, of Franklin; Mrs. Frances U. Lockhart, of Manchester; Mrs. M. E. Woodman, of West Lebanon.

A committee on forestry was formed, consisting of Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway; Mrs. Olive Rand Clarke, Manchester, and Mrs. Susan H. Knapp, of Somersworth.

The Committee on Resolutions reported:

Whereas, The New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs has pledged itself to promote the highest interests of the State, and having had brought to its notice the deplorable condition of the insane in some of our county almshouses;

Resolved, That the New Hampshire Federation of Women's Clubs lend its influence toward creating a public sentiment throughout the State for the better care and more systematic supervision of this class of our dependent poor;

Resolved, That a committee be appointed to investigate and report at the next annual meeting the methods which scientific investigation has shown to be best adapted to secure the proper care of the indigent insane.

The following officers for the ensuing year were unanimously elected: President, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair, of Manchester; vice-presidents, Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, Concord, and Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway; corresponding secretary, Miss Kate Runnels, Nashua; recording secretary, Mrs. A. A. Perkins, Somersworth; treasurer, Mrs. Kate H. Brown, Whitefield; auditor, Mrs. Ellen L. McLane, Milford.

Mrs. Olive Rand Clarke, of Manchester, was chosen delegate to the biennial session of the General Federation to be held in Denver in June next, and Mrs. Lilian C. Streeter, of Concord, alternate.

An invitation from the Milford Woman's Club to hold the next annual meeting at Milford was accepted. An invitation from Mrs. Margaret T. Yardley, of the New Jersey federation, to hold the next field meeting at her summer home at Lake Sunapee, was also accepted.

Votes of thanks to the Somersworth Club, which had done so much to promote the success of the meeting, and to the retiring officers, were adopted, and the second annual meeting of the New Hampshire federation adjourned. It was a bright, intelligent body of women assembled here, full of earnest purpose and aspiration "to promote the highest interests of the State," as well as for mutual helpfulness; and the strength and stimulus gained here will bear good fruit hereafter.

Of the thirty-two clubs which formed the first membership of the New Hampshire State federation, Manchester claims seven; Concord, four; Durham, two; Exeter, two; Portsmouth, two; Keene, two. Twelve other towns were represented by one each. The oldest are the Shakespeare Club, of Manchester, organized 1873, and the Stratford Club, of Concord, founded in 1883.

The State federation of New Hampshire was admitted to the General Federation in November, 1895. Its colors are green and silver. Its motto, "In principle, like our granite; in aspiration, like our mountains; in our sympathy swift and far-reaching, like our rivers."

The following letter from the president of the State federation, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair, summarizes the situation and will be read with interest. She writes:

" JANUARY 20, 1898.

" We met in Concord, October, 1895, and formed a State Federation of Women's Clubs without appointing committees, except on badges and pins. Mrs. Streeter, our president, was soon taken ill, and so remained through the summer; so when we came to the first annual meeting, which (until a short time before it occurred) we hoped she might preside over and lay out a plan of general work, she was not able to be present, and we were not able, at so short notice, to decide upon more than one committee—that upon education. After that meeting, responsibility being thrown upon me, I studied the situation carefully, and at a field meeting held in Plymouth last July, in conference with our women, laid a plan of work before them which was followed at our annual meeting at Somersworth. We are now at work; our clubs have doubled in number; our women are earnest, of great general ability, and thoroughly equipped for whatever they undertake. They are now studying

the situation, which cannot be done by copying from outside, because we are confronted by different conditions from most federations.

"We have few cities, and they are small; we have large rural districts, but they are by no means missionary fields. We find in them some of our most cultivated, dependable women. Our country clubs are very strong. To exchange our wealth of vigorous thinking which belongs to the hills for the different mental thought of cities and to unite both upon public questions is our desire. Training of teachers, school methods, morals and environment of children in school, street and country road, care of the defective and dependent, municipal cleanliness, prevention of slums, preserving God's gift of exceeding beauty to our hills and valleys, is the labor upon which our minds are set. On these lines our committees are carefully laying out their work.

"Sincerely yours,

E. N. BLAIR."

The year book of the New Hampshire State federation for 1897-98 records forty-three clubs, representing twenty-two towns. Of these, Manchester leads with eleven clubs, one of which is a club of clubs—a flourishing city federation. It works under six departments, and takes the place of a large department club, as it admits members of other clubs, independently of the bodies to which they are accredited.

Concord has four clubs; Durham, two; Exeter, two; Peterborough, two; and all other places one each.

The present list of officers embraces: Honorary president, Mrs. Lilian C. Streeter; president, Mrs. Eliza Nelson Blair; vice-presidents, Mrs. Susan C. Bancroft, Mrs. Ellen M. Mason; recording secretary, Mrs. Harriet B. L. Perkins; corresponding secretary, Miss Katherine L. Runnells; treasurer, Mrs. Kate Howard Brown; auditor, Mrs. Ellen L. McLane, Milford.

The only honorary member is Mrs. Margaret Yardley, of East Orange, N. J. The summer meeting (1898) will be held, by her invitation, at her summer home, "Sunapee," N. H.

The State chairman of correspondence for General Federation of Women's Clubs is Mrs. Mary P. Woodsworth, of Concord.

The committee work of the State is done under education, sociology, and forestry. The chairmen are: Mrs. H. L. Huntress, of Concord; Mrs. F. U. Lockhart, Manchester, and Mrs. Ellen M. Mason, North Conway.

Nashaway Woman's Club, Nashua, was founded May 29, 1896, by ten women who met by invitation at the home of Mrs. E. F. McQuesten for the purpose of considering such a project.

The organization was at once effected, and so large a number of ladies

expressed interest and a desire to participate in such an organization, that the limit of membership, at first put to one hundred and fifty, was shortly raised to two hundred, where it remains. The first officers elected were: President, Mrs. O. C. Moore; vice-president, Mrs. E. Powell; second vice-president, Mrs. E. F. McQuesten; secretary, Mrs. A. N. Flinn; treasurer, Miss Lucy Thayer; and a board of six directors. The name "Nashaway" was chosen because it was the aboriginal way of spelling the name of the river. The work is done under four standing committees, art, literature, current events, and music. The subjects are somewhat miscellaneous, but have covered the schools of modern fiction and representative types of women in literature; the modern French school of painting; national music; oratorio and modern composers.

The department of current events is represented at one meeting in the month by notable occurrences in the scientific, literary, and political worlds; and these form the basis of animated discussions.

There are twelve meetings during the year that are not department meetings. These provide lectures, club teas, receptions, or entertainments to which guests or the public are admitted.

Among the lectures have been several that were illustrated, including one on the "Dresden Gallery," and another, "Climbing the Matterhorn."

A great deal of the success attending the work and growth of the club is referred to the happy choice of president. Mrs. Moore is a woman of great tact and practical wisdom, combined with a commanding, yet refined, personality. Since her husband's death four years ago—and practically for years before his death, for he was member of Congress from his district—she has been the manager of the Nashua daily and weekly *Telegraph*, of which he was editor and proprietor.

Mrs. Moore was the first president of the Woman's Relief Corps, of Nashua, and is on the Committee of Education in the State federation.

The annual dues of the club are \$3. All the general officers were re-elected at its annual meeting, and the prospects for a useful and happy life are very bright and promising.

The Biographical Club, of Manchester, was formed September 24, 1896, with Mary B. Underwood, president; Grace W. Lane, vice-president; Lilla C. Riley, secretary and treasurer. The annual meeting is in October, at



MRS. O. C. MOORE,
President Nashaway Woman's Club,
N. H.

which time new officers are elected. The club belongs to the Manchester City Federation. Membership is ten, and limited to twelve. The work, as indicated by the name, is biographical ; but members do not confine themselves strictly to biography, because their aim is to become familiar with the great writers, speakers, inventors, statesmen, and others, worthy of study. During the current season the club began the study of American history through the noted statesmen and famous women, and gave some time to the reading of Shakespeare. They also gave one meeting to parliamentary drill.

The Clio Club was formed in 1896, for the study of American history. It has twenty members. A general outline of the work for each year is mapped out by the officers, who also constitute an executive committee. The programme is arranged by a committee of three, appointed by the officers at the meeting immediately preceding. To one is given the current events, the other two look up the historical subjects ; and while the other members busy themselves with some kind of needlework this committee read aloud what they have chosen.

The Current Events Club, Exeter, was organized 1893. Membership is limited to sixteen. It meets fortnightly, to discuss current events in literature, science, invention, education, politics, women's work, matters in Congress, foreign events, art, music, etc., one topic being assigned each member for the season. Its president is Mrs. Harriet Burlingame ; secretary, Miss Lucy Bell. In one respect this club is in advance of any other in the State, in that it does not permit written papers, the members preparing themselves carefully beforehand, and then speaking extemporaneously to the club.

The Current Events Club, Penacook, began in January, 1896, with nineteen charter members. Subsequently ten more names were added to the roll-call, bringing the membership up to twenty-nine.

The work, as the name implies, has been the discussion of a wide variety of current topics. Interesting papers have been presented on the Armenian troubles, Venezuela question, the war in South Africa, and affairs in Cuba. A sketch of the life of the poet laureate of England, pen-portraits of distinguished men and women, and two papers of great interest on arctic explorations, have been included in the work of the club.

From the beginning the members have exhibited great interest in their various assignments, and devoted conscientious investigation to their several topics. All questions of public interest are properly within the scope of its intention, and it grows, therefore, both in breadth and thoroughness.

Its meetings are conducted in accordance with parliamentary order, and a study of governmental methods is contemplated.

The club became a member of the State federation, February, 1896. The annual meeting is held the fourth Monday in April. The present officers

are M. A. Fiske, president ; Mrs. C. H. Sandon, vice-president ; Miss Alice Brown, secretary ; Miss M. Chamberlin, treasurer.

Dante's Club began in December, 1891, at the house of Mrs. Abbie Eastman Stone. The object of the club is to study Italian authors in their native language. During the first year and a part of the next the time was devoted to the study of Italian grammar and the translation of short selections from various Italian authors. During this period of study, each meeting was in charge of a leader appointed at the previous meeting, each member serving in turn. The business of the club was performed by committees appointed for the purpose.

The following works have been studied by the club : "Un Incontro," by Edmondo De Amicis ; "La Casa Paterna" ; "L'Anello Di Diamanti," by Enrico Castelnuovo ; "Le Mie Prigioni," by Silvio Pellico ; "I Promessi Sposi," by Manzoni.

In 1896 a more definite form of organization seemed desirable, and a constitution was adopted.

The serious study of Dante is the object to which all previous work has been preparatory. The order of exercises consists of reading in turn from the appointed lesson, followed by discussion of disputed points, questions of syntax, or other matters pertaining to the subject. The members have found especial enjoyment in the discussions, which are always prompt, enthusiastic, and expressive of individual opinion.

The meetings are held on the second and fourth Wednesdays of each month, from half-past two until five o'clock, and are informal, except when business is transacted.

The Derry Woman's Club was formed in November, 1895, with the following officers : Harriett M. Smith, president ; Helen L. Hood, Mary L. Chase, vice-presidents ; Louise S. Adams, secretary ; Belle B. Warner, treasurer. The object was mental improvement and social enjoyment. Membership is limited to twenty, as the meetings are in private houses. The Derry Woman's Club joined the New Hampshire federation in October, 1896. Mrs. Emma Shaw Colcleugh and Mrs. D. A. Lincoln have lectured before it, but the annual dues being small, as is the membership, the funds do not permit of the employment of much outside talent. During the present year, 1897, the subjects are Scottish, English, and Irish writers, New Hampshire authors and poets, Southern writers, noted women authors, and talks on physical culture. The plan of work for each year is suggested by a committee of three, appointed at the annual meeting, which takes place the first Thursday in October. The present officers are : Louise S. Adams, president ; Etta N. Bell, Maud Melvin, vice-presidents ; Emma H. Abbott, secretary ; Elizabeth A. Wheeler, treasurer.

The Durham Woman's Club was founded in October, 1896. It joined the State federation in October, 1896. This club has departments in domestic science, philanthropy, education, natural science, sociology, history, art, and literature. The present membership is forty and limited to seventy-five; but the club means to always have the limit large enough to admit all women who wish to join it. Last year they had one lecture and a "gentleman's night." This year a lecture on education by the State superintendent, and a lecture on birds, with one on the work of the State charities. Following are the present officers: Miss Matey Burnham, president; Mrs. Edward Adams, vice-president; Miss Eva Bruket, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Evelyn Wiggin, recording secretary; Mrs. Belle Mather, treasurer; Mrs. G. De Merritt, auditor.

The Tuesday Afternoon Club, of Durham, was organized January, 1893. Its officers were: Miss C. M. Scott, president; Miss Margaret T. Frost, vice-president; Mrs. C. S. Muckland, secretary and treasurer. The club joined the State organization as charter member. Its proposed object, study for mutual improvement, and social enjoyment. The work is purely literary, with an occasional musical afternoon. The first year's programme was devoted to Concord, Mass., and its school of writers. The second year, "The Leading Cities of the World." The third year, "The Literature of the Last Master of the Nineteenth Century." The fourth year, "American History to the Revolution." The present membership is twenty and limited. The members were enthusiastic over, and seemed willing to devote a great deal of study to, each subject. This year is devoted to "American Progress during the Nineteenth Century," with fifteen minutes at each meeting given to current events. The annual meeting is the last Tuesday in May, and the present officers are: President, Mrs. Albert Kingsbury; vice-president, Mrs. Lucius Thompson; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Geo. De Merritt.

The Tuesday Club, of Dover, organized 1892, is limited to twenty members, and meets weekly from October to April. A general topic for study is chosen for the entire season, and each member in turn prepares a half-hour paper, and, in addition, the first fifteen minutes of each meeting are given to the discussion of some current topic. The officers are, a president, vice-president, and secretary-treasurer.

The XIV. Club, of Manchester, was founded December 1, 1896, when seven ladies met at the residence of Mrs. C. E. Cox for that purpose. A constitution and by-laws had already been prepared, and were adopted at this meeting, when the following officers were elected: Mrs. Lizzie J. Brown, president; Mrs. C. E. Cox, vice-president; Mrs. Ella M. Peck, secretary and treasurer. The first regular meeting was held December 15, 1896. Membership was increased to twelve, and is now full, with a limit of fourteen, from

which the club takes its name. Only one of its members had ever belonged to a woman's club before, but there is not one (and some have many household cares) who would willingly give up her club now. Most of the members are of middle age, and like others whose youth lacked the opportunities of to-day, they are eager to improve their time for the good of themselves and others. The club belongs to the Manchester City Federation, but is a member of the State and General Federations only in that way. The annual meeting is held on the first Tuesday of April, and the first Board of Officers will serve until April, 1898. The members look upon their club as a place to fit themselves to work intelligently on civic and other lines. There is a committee of three, which is changed every fourth meeting, whose duty it is to visit at least one public school every week, and report to the club if there is any way in which they can assist the teachers. In this way they hope to create more interest among the parents in the welfare of the schools. Although this is a small club, it has gone to work earnestly and with a purpose, and will doubtless prove of value in its own community.

The Fortnightly Club, of Concord, has never assumed to be a literary club in the strict sense of the term. In the beginning it was little more than a group of friends who came together with their needlework every other week to listen to two or three articles from the current magazines, chosen and read by previously appointed members. A constitution was adopted and officers chosen as a matter of convenience, but the proceedings remained informal.

As the small club grew and flourished, the bimonthly programme grew also. A report on current events became a regular feature, and from time to time, papers, written for the Woman's Club and other bodies, were heard, through the kindness of the writers.

In 1896 the membership, originally sixteen, had been increased to twenty-five, and there fixed permanently. While the original magazine idea has been by no means abandoned some original club work has been tried as an experiment. Thoughtful papers have been prepared and read by Miss Mary Carter, Miss Crane, Dr. Hoyt, Mrs. Sumner, and Mrs. Fiske. The club has also been delighted since New Year's by five charming informal talks—from Miss Proctor on the "Development of the Reasoning Faculty in a Child," Miss Niles on "A Winter in Paris," Mr. William P. Fiske on "Banking," Dr. Sumner on "Mental Science as Allied to the Science of Health," and Dr. Crane, who took for his subject "The Poets and the Faith." One musicale has been given, under the care of Mrs. W. D. Thompson.

The club members are very loyal to their "Fortnightly," and think that if ever the need for a club motto should arise, that motto might very aptly be "*Multum in parvo.*"

The Franklin Woman's Club, organized October 18, 1895, is thriving

and progressive, numbering some eighty members. Mrs. S. A. Blodgett has always been its president, and the work includes departments of domestic economy, science, philanthropy, art and literature, education, and current events. The club belongs to the State federation, and is in a flourishing condition.

The list of officers for 1897 included: Mrs. Sarah A. Blodgett, president; Mrs. Ella S. Stone, vice-president; Mrs. Emma F. Emerson, recording secretary; Miss M. Elizabeth Clement, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Lizzie Robie, treasurer; Mrs. M. A. Wallace, auditor.

The Friday Club, of Littleton, was organized 1889; membership limited to twenty. Meets fortnightly from November to April, and studies "Famous Cities: Their Customs, Literature, Religion, and Politics." The work is done entirely by members, except at the closing meeting of the year, when a lecturer is engaged. This club, although unfederated, is one of the most thoroughly in earnest in the State, and it prints a more complete year-book than any other.

The Grafton Club, of Portsmouth, was founded in May, 1895, and named in honor of the first person in Portsmouth—a woman who notably forwarded the educational interests of the township.

The first Board of Officers was: President, Miss N. F. Pierce; vice-president, Miss F. A. Mathes; recording secretary, Miss Helen Pender; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary Myers; treasurer, Miss Stella Webster.

The club was founded with an educational purpose, and has well fulfilled its object. The members have shown great interest, which, at the end of the second year's work, has materially increased instead of diminishing. It is a departmental club, as follows: art and literature, science and economics, ethics and history; each group, as above divided, being under the charge of a committee of three, who arranges its work. The club was admitted to the State and General Federations very soon after its organization. Membership is limited to one hundred, and is complete. The prospects for the future are brilliant, exceptionally so. The members are wide-awake and eager. The committees are competent and growing, with the advantage of experience.

The annual meeting is the first Thursday in May. List of officers includes: President, Miss F. A. Mathes; vice-president, Mrs. L. H. Thayer; secretary, Miss Helen Pender; corresponding secretary, Miss Mary Myers; treasurer, Miss Stella Webster.

The Ladies' Literary Society, of Hanover, dating from 1887, is one of the oldest in the State. It is limited to thirty members, and meets fortnightly from October to April, inclusive.

It has studied since its organization English, Italian, religious and American history, famous cities, and during 1897 "Phases of Modern Thought

as Shown in Literature." It also gives three meetings during the year to current topics. The work is carried on entirely by the club members. Situated as it is in a college town, its environment is peculiarly favorable to the highest intellectual culture, and the papers prepared for it represent more careful, thorough research and scholarship and more independent thought than any others in the State.

The president (1897) was Mrs. C. F. Emerson ; vice-president, Miss Etta Newell; secretary, Miss E. H. Howe.

The History Club, of Portsmouth, was founded March 19, 1879, as a group without officers, constitution, or fees. It began with twelve members, and has been increased to seventeen. While there is no limit, it is tacitly understood that the club is large enough, and no additions have been made for several years. It joined the State federation in the fall of 1895 at its organization. Members have steadily pursued the subject of history, sometimes taking up literary or biographical subjects in connection. Their plan is to have each member contribute one essay a season, the subjects being arranged by one of the members after suggestions from the club.

The subject for the current year is the study of the second quarter century of the United States, covering the administrations between Monroe and Pierce.

Discussions are at all times in order, and meetings are profitable, although extremely informal.

The oldest member is Mrs. Helen Cross Knight, who gives delightful papers or talks, and often gives a strong connecting link with the earlier history of the country by recalling the discussions of her father and his friends as heard in her own childhood. The youngest members are in the thirties, so that members get a variety of experience and method of presentations.

Since belonging to the New Hampshire Federation the club elects a president to represent it there, which may be called her only duty. Last year Miss Susan H. Mathes was the acting president. This year it will be Miss Victoria E. Vennard.

The Interrogation Club, of Manchester, was founded January 15, 1891, by a few ladies who met to organize a class to study the topics of the day. They adopted the title of Interrogation Club, and elected Mrs. Melusina H. Varick, president ; Mrs. Cleora B. Cleworth, vice-president ; Mrs. Helen W. Boutwell, secretary ; Mrs. Martha W. Hubbard, treasurer. The Executive Committee was: Mrs. E. A. Means, Mrs. Margaret J. Stannard, Miss Jennie Young. From year to year more has been required of the members, and the standard of the club has been raised. This was one of the charter clubs of the Manchester City Federation, formed in November, 1894, and joined the State federation in October, 1895. Membership is limited to

twenty. Meetings are held weekly from the first Monday in October to the last Monday in April, which is the annual meeting. Current events of the week are presented at these meetings by some member, and a paper is read and discussed. Strict parliamentary rules are observed. During the current year two or three lectures will be furnished by this club, and by coöperating with other clubs in the city, many lecturers of note have been secured in the past. The present officers are: Mrs. Nellie T. Holten, president; Mrs. Elizabeth A. Means, vice-president; Mrs. Mary M. Varick, secretary; Miss Nellie Snow, assistant secretary; Miss Mary M. Tolman, treasurer; Mrs. Sarah T. Hussey, Executive Committee; Mrs. Cleora B. Cleworth, Miss Emma L. Varney, Miss Jennie Young, Literary Committee.

The Keene Colonial Club was founded in November, 1894, with Mrs. M. L. Griffin as chairman and Miss S. A. Webster secretary. The object was to promote social, moral, and mental life among members. The Colonial Club joined the New Hampshire Federation October, 1896. Membership is limited to thirty-five active and ten honorary, and is complete, with an active interest throughout. The president is the leader, and conducts the club studies in colonial history, a course having been adopted which was suggested by Prof. John Fiske. The annual meeting occurs in May, and the present Board of Officers is: Mrs. Margaret L. Griffin, president; Mrs. M. R. Osborne, vice-president; Mrs. A. M. Howe, treasurer; Mrs. Helen Holmes, Miss Gertrude Bridgman, Executive Committee.

The Keene Fortnightly Club, founded in 1888, was reorganized in 1894. It is limited to thirty members, and meets fortnightly, from October till April, for the study of English history. This is an earnest, hard-working club, and deeply interested in the woman's club movement. It prints a very neat programme and year-book. Its officers were (1897): President, Mrs. F. A. Corey; vice-president, Mrs. Herbert Woodward; treasurer, Mrs. A. W. Metcalf; secretary, Mrs. H. O. Coolidge; critic, Mrs. C. N. Chandler.

The Keene Current Events Club was organized in January, 1897, with the following officers: Mrs. Myrtle Robertson, president; Miss Nellie Litchfield, vice-president; Bertha I. Jones, secretary and treasurer; Florence Pierce, Carrie Buffum, Grace Harlow, Programme Committee. It has not yet joined either State or General Federation. Intellectual improvement is the object of this club, which is sought along the lines of current events, music, and modern literature. The membership is limited to twenty, and is at present seventeen. The prospects for the future are excellent. The annual meeting is held in April.

The Keene Tourist Club was formed in November, 1896, with only five members. These meet every other Friday afternoon, from two to five, at their homes. The club has not joined either federation as yet. The presi-

dent prepared the programme for the first year, but as the object is mutual benefit by social intercourse as well as by studying together, the membership will be enlarged, and a special programme committee will conduct the meetings the current year. As the name indicates, books of travel and journeyings in the United States, sometimes illustrated by photographs, form the principal course of study. The annual meeting is to be held the first of October. The present Board of Officers, which were the first ones elected, is: Mrs. C. B. Hall, president; Mrs. G. A. Raynor, vice-president; Mrs. Carl Adams, secretary; Mrs. George Griffin, treasurer.

The Monday Club, of Lebanon, has a membership of twenty, and meets weekly from November to March. It has studied American history, and also given meetings to four philanthropic movements—the Red Cross, college settlements, prison reform, and associated charities. Its affairs are managed by an Executive Committee of three—Mrs. E. H. Thompson, chairman; Mrs. W. S. Carter, Mrs. Robert Forsyth. This club has proved itself a truly advanced and progressive body, its pursuit of knowledge leading to a desire to help and serve others.

The West Lebanon Fortnightly Club was founded October 5, 1892. The first Board of Officers was: President, Mrs. G. F. Hinckley; vice-president, Mrs. S. Tilden; secretary and treasurer, Miss J. B. Horley; assistant treasurer, Mrs. Fred. Holmes; Executive Committee, Mrs. Gilchrist, Miss Burton, Mrs. M. E. Woodman. This club is one of the charter members of the New Hampshire State Federation, organized in October, 1895. The avowed object is the "mutual improvement of its members in literature, art, science, and vital interests of the day." The date of annual meeting is the first Monday in March. The membership has been limited to twenty-five, but now is unlimited. The list of officers is: President, Mrs. M. S. Woodman; vice-president, Mrs. L. A. Estabrook; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. D. H. Darling.

The Historic Art Club, of Manchester, was founded in 1894 for the study of art history, with Mrs. Elizabeth A. Means, president; Mrs. Isabella Preston, vice-president; Mrs. Eltra Taggart, secretary; Miss Mary Kidder, treasurer.

The Historic Art Club is in both the State and General Federations, having been admitted in 1895. The membership is limited to fifty.

The present year will be given to the study of history and art of Florence and Venice. Every member is expected to prepare a paper upon the topic assigned her by the Programme Committee, and this article will be illustrated by photographs purchased by the club. Several talks by well-known lecturers are upon the programme for this season, and the year promises profit and pleasure. The present officers are: Mrs. Frederica Briggs Helton, president;

Miss Jennie Young, first vice-president ; Mrs. Lizzie Brown, secretary ; Miss Mary McKidder, treasurer.

The Natural Science Club, of Manchester, was founded in 1895. On March 12th twelve ladies met for the purpose of forming a science club. The next week a constitution was adopted and the officers elected. These consisted of : Mrs. Emma Bickford, president ; Miss Clara Brown, vice-president ; Miss M. Eugenia Lord, secretary and treasurer.

The club has held its meetings fortnightly, in the afternoon, at the homes of the members, and good work has been done in botany and ornithology. A library has been started composed of books treating of natural science, and a librarian appointed. The members have listened to interesting lectures on scientific subjects, and the club is ever ready to help in any good work. The social side of club life is not neglected, and during the summer, field days have been enjoyed at the summer homes of members, and long tramps taken hunting for birds and flowers not familiar to all members. A fine of five cents is levied on any one absent from meetings, except in case of illness or absence from town. The club was admitted to the State federation February 18, 1897 ; to the city federation, October 29, 1895. The objects are mutual improvement, the study of science in its different branches, parliamentary drill, and sociability. The principal work has been along the lines of botany and ornithology. The present officers are : Miss Annie Baker, president ; Miss Belle R. Daniels, vice-president ; Miss Susan Richardson, secretary and treasurer ; Miss Kate Gooden, librarian. The annual meeting occurs on Tuesday, the third in March. The present membership is thirty-five, and to that number the membership is limited until March, 1898. The prospects for 1897-98 are financial prosperity, a full membership, earnest work along the lines chosen, and an increasing library.

The Outlook Club, of Manchester, was organized November 27, 1893. The first officers were : President, Miss Martha W. Hubbard ; secretary-treasurer, Mrs. Mary F. Phelps. The club meets fortnightly at the homes of the members. The papers on the various subjects have been interesting and instructive, and keep alive interest both in those who work and those who listen. The club is a charter member of the Manchester City and the New Hampshire State Federation. The purpose is for the study of the leading topics of the day, and for such discussion as shall develop thought and show the bearing of such questions on the practical life of humanity. In connection with this line of work parliamentary law has been studied and practised. The date of the annual meeting is the first Tuesday in May, and the membership is limited to fifteen. The prospects for 1897-98 are bright, and the programme full of interest. The present officers are : President, Mrs. J. Edgerly ; vice-president, Mrs. Mary F. Phelps ; secretary-treasurer, Miss L. J. Nutt.

The Pilgrims, of Manchester, organized as a club January 25, 1896. The first Board of Officers was as follows: President, Miss Etta A. Canis; vice-president, Miss Cora M. Farmer; secretary, Mrs. Ida E. Morgan; treasurer, Mrs. Jennie M. Armstrong; auditor, Mrs. Grace H. Abbott. The "Pilgrims" do not belong to the State federation, but joined the city federation April 16, 1896. The object is mutual improvement in art, literature, and the vital interests of the day. The annual meeting occurs the last Monday in May. Membership is limited to twelve. The present officers are: Miss Carrie W. Anderson, president; Miss Effic M. Thorpe, vice-president; Miss Kate M. Gooden, secretary; Miss Florence L. Abbott, treasurer; Mrs. Grace Durgin, auditor; Miss Etta A. Canis, Miss Grace H. Abbott, and Mrs. Ida E. Morgan, directors.

The Manchester City Federation of Clubs, the largest woman's organization in New Hampshire's wealthiest city, was born on November 6, 1894, when the State chairman, at the request of the Manchester Shakespeare Club, addressed the members of the six Manchester clubs upon "Federation and the Club Movement." Organization was perfected two weeks later, and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. J. B. Varick; vice-president, Mrs. B. W. Lockhart; recording secretary, Mrs. S. C. Brown; corresponding secretary, Miss Martha Hubbard; treasurer, Mrs. Frank Johnson; auditor, Miss Sarah J. Greene. Six clubs were charter members, as follows: the Manchester Shakespeare Club (organized 1873, and thus the oldest club in this State), Book Review Club, Interrogation Club, Current Events Club, Outlook Club, and Musical Club, and one club organized and added later, the Historic Art Club, with forty members.

The federation admitted also twenty-five associate members, giving it a total membership of about one hundred and fifty women. Annual dues, \$1. It meets monthly, from November to April, each club in turn conducting a meeting. It adopted Mrs. Shattuck's "Manual" as its authority.

The Nineteenth Century Club, of Manchester, is a club of young women belonging to their city federation, but not to the State. The officers are: President, Grace B. Hosmer; vice-president, Annie F. Abbott; secretary, Florence Barnard; treasurer, Bessie C. Dodge.

The Milford Woman's Club was founded in November, 1895, and joined the State federation in February, 1896. The first list of officers was: Mrs. Grace M. Rotch, president; Mrs. Laura B. Smith, vice-president; Mrs. Ellen M. McLane, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Josephine French, Mrs. Kate Ordway, Miss Sarah Bird, directors; Mrs. Kate Ordway, Mrs. Emilie Farnsworth, Musical Committee. The work so far has been that of a travelling club, and somewhat of a social nature. During the current year, opportunities for active charitable work will be studied; but except for this new division for philanthropy the work of the club is that of one body, and there are no

classes. The membership is limited to one hundred and fifty, and is now full. Mrs. Rotch is a journalist of ability, and the club has issued a beautifully bound and well-edited club journal, which does great credit to the committee. The annual meeting will hereafter be the last meeting in May. For the current year the officers are: Mrs. Ellen L. McLane, president; Mrs. Harriet E. Kaley, vice-president; Mrs. Josephine E. French, secretary; Mrs. Harriet Hutchinson, treasurer; Mrs. Mary E. Titus, Mrs. Laura E. Smith, Mrs. Grace M. Rotch, directors.

The Monday Club, of Rochester, was organized December 14, 1896, at which meeting the following officers were chosen: Mrs. Grace Colbath, president; Miss Sadie C. Ames, vice-president; Mrs. T. B. Osgood, treasurer; Mrs. Norma C. Snow, secretary; Mrs. Annie S. Allen, Miss Annie Wallace, Miss Sarah M. Guppy, Executive Committee. Meetings were held regularly on Monday afternoons once a week during the winter and spring, and the club joined the State Federation February 18, 1897. For the current season, beginning the first Monday of October, English history forms the basis of study. Membership at present is limited to fifteen, but will probably soon be enlarged. The ladies show a great deal of enthusiasm and determination in club work, and are planning to have some literary work outside the club before the end of the season. This is a young club, but none the less flourishing. The annual meeting falls on the last Monday in May, and the first list of officers is still in force.

The Outing Club, of Concord, was organized in November, 1895, for "the promotion of outdoor exercise and healthful pleasure for women." While bicycling in summer and snowshoeing in winter are the chief sports indulged in, no restrictions are made, and canoeing, golfing, or any other form of exercise desired will be provided for as circumstances and facilities may allow.

For an association of this kind some sort of a club-house is necessary at a convenient distance from the city proper, where regular club meetings may be held and where members may go at will. At a meeting of the Outing Club in 1896 it was voted to build a house as soon as a desirable location could be procured. This has been accomplished in a very simple and unpretentious manner.

The president is Dr. Maude Kent; vice-president, Miss Carrie Stewart; secretary and treasurer, Miss Nellie S. Abbott. The membership is limited to twenty-five.

Wild Flower Club came from the suggestion of two members of the Stratford Club, who, during the summer of 1895, were indefatigable seekers after wild flowers.

In March, 1896, a meeting was held attended by members of the Stratford

Club and others, and the Wild Flower Club was organized, with Mrs. Kate P. Chesley as president; Miss Mary C. Eastman, vice-president; Miss Frances M. Abbott, secretary and treasurer. Every Monday afternoon finds the members in the woods and fields in pursuit of flowers. The first outdoor meeting was held the middle of April, when the snow had barely disappeared from the woods; but on a sunny hillside in West Concord the hepatica was found in all its delicate beauty, and the foliage of other plants gave promise of the blossoms that would appear later. The outdoor meetings continue until the last of October. Once or twice a month an indoor meeting is held, when the flowers that have been found are discussed, the words of the poets concerning them recalled, and plans for future trips are made. Mrs. William Starr Dana's "How to Know the Wild Flowers" is the favorite text-book.

The Robinson Seminary Alumna Association was formed June 12, 1890, with the following officers: Mrs. John J. Bell, Exeter, president; Miss I. Alice Varney, Miss Helen L. Dutch, vice-presidents; Mrs. George N. Cross, secretary; Miss Martha C. Moulton, treasurer. The club joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs at its organization at Concord, October 24, 1895. Its object has been to keep an active interest in the seminary, and the members in touch with each other.

There is a rapidly increasing membership, which now numbers one hundred and ninety. The annual meeting is the last of December, and there is a quinquennial reunion in June. The annual meetings are always delightful. The beautiful chapel is decorated for the afternoon tea, and there are interesting reports, papers, and journals of foreign travel read by some fortunate member of the association, with music, also from its members.

Once in five years they celebrate with a grand banquet at noon, and evening reception. Toasts are given at the dinner, and the responses are bright and witty.

The present officers are: Mrs. Cora Kent Bell, president; Annabel Warren, Ellen L. Wentworth, vice-presidents; Mary S. Cross, recording secretary; Emma S. Tilton, corresponding secretary; Martha O. Moulton, treasurer; Maude P. Barker, assistant treasurer.

The Schiller Club, of Concord, began as a little study club for the cultivation of the German language and literature.

In the beginning a thorough course of grammar work was taken, and some connected reading done. Among the first books read were Fouqué's "Undine," Anderson's "Maerchen" and "Minna von Barnhelm." Later, Schiller's dramatic works were studied, with a sprinkling of lighter reading, translated at sight as a recreation. Among the plays of Schiller most enjoyed were "Wilhelm Tell," "Maria Stuart," "Die Jungfrau von Orleans," and the trilogy of "Wallenstein." In lighter vein many short stories and

poems have contributed materially toward a familiarity with German, at once colloquial and pure, which it was found an exclusive devotion to the classics would never accomplish.

In 1895 Lessing was the inspiration—the man, his work, his life, and his critics. The idioms of “Nathan der Weise” have furnished much food for thought and animated discussion.

Goethe, which means “Faust,” is one of the delights of the future for the club, although some of his minor works have been studied. A photograph of the author studied often adorns the face of the programme, which is written in German script.

The same plan of study is followed by all the members, whether in Concord or elsewhere. At one time, when Das Schiller Kraenchen was unusually scattered, a round-robin was devised. A letter, written by one member to the whole club, was sent to a second member, who added her contribution, and sent the whole to a third, and so on. Thus an endless interchange of ideas was established, and knotty questions in the German translation straightened out by correspondence. This device brought non-resident members into closer communion with the club.

Yearly reunions have been held at Boston, Sunapee Lake, and at the homes of different members. If the season and weather permit, this meeting takes place in the open air.

The Somersworth Woman's Club was organized December 14, 1895. The first Board of Officers was: Mrs. A. A. Perkins, president; Mrs. G. B. Merritt, Mrs. F. L. Shupleigh, vice-presidents; Mrs. Marion T. Shupleigh, recording secretary; Miss Cora Stickney, corresponding secretary; Mrs. J. R. Horne, treasurer; Mrs. C. M. Dorr, auditor; Mrs. L. D. Custer, Mrs. Henry Hyde, Mrs. F. C. Bates, Mrs. Wm. D. Knapp, directors.

There are sixty-one charter members. The limit the first year was one hundred, whose duty it was to engage in some form of department work and pay the annual fee of one dollar. Honorary members are not obliged to join departments, do not vote, and pay annually five dollars. In 1897 the club raised the limit to one hundred and twenty-five, and at the close of the club year there were seven on the waiting list, and seven honorary members. The club joined the State federation in January, 1896. The work consists of seven departments: household economics, history of art, literature, history and biography, tourist, French and German, and music.

The State federation met with the Somersworth in October, and the prospects for the year 1898 are good. The date of annual meeting is the last Saturday in May. The officers for the years 1897 and 1898 are: Mrs. W. D. Knapp, president; Mrs. G. H. Spencer, Mrs. E. T. Carter, vice-presidents; Mrs. A. A. Perkins, recording secretary; Miss Cora Stickney, corresponding

secretary ; Mrs. L. D. Custer, treasurer ; Mrs. John Hall, auditor ; Mrs. Wm. Russell, Mrs. Freeman Hussey, Mrs. G. B. Merritt, Mrs. M. L. Walker, directors.

Twenty Famous Women has an Executive Committee of three members. This little organization has shown great interest in State federated work, and also in modern philanthropic methods. In every way it proves itself a really advanced and progressive club.

The Woman's Study Club, of Whitefield, was founded June 2, 1896. The first officers were : Mrs. Ellic Jean Noyes, president ; Mrs. Nellie Chase Lane, vice-president ; Miss Josephine Ruth Brown, secretary ; Mrs. Julia Kilgore Miner, treasurer ; Mrs. Allard Graves, auditor ; Mrs. Ella Bailey Colby, Mrs. Mary Meserve Quimby, Miss Grace Elva Porter, Topic Committee.

There were thirteen charter members, who organized for the purpose of studying American history. Members have been very much interested, and the meetings well attended on the first and third Saturdays of each month. This club joined the State federation July 12, 1897.

One of its objects is to become a social centre of united thought and action in the town of Whitefield. The association is limited to twenty-five active members, who pay an annual fee of one dollar, and contribute personally some part toward the interest of the club during the year. There are, also, ten associate members, who pay an annual fee of two dollars, and who are not eligible to office. The offices, except the secretary and treasurer, are limited.

The Weirs Woman's Club was organized March 3, 1897, with the following officers : Mrs. W. J. Nassum, president ; Mrs. Owen Wilcomb, vice-president ; Mrs. Henry Batchelder, secretary ; Mrs. Sarah Mitchell, treasurer.

During the first summer the club raised thirty-eight dollars by a lecture, given by Dr. J. R. Greene, of Boston. Meetings are held every Wednesday from October 1st till June 1st. Application has been made for membership in both State and General Federations.

The object is mutual improvement on literary and social lines. The club has invited the State federation to meet with it in the summer of 1898, and expects a delightful " field " day, after the fashion of Maine.

New Jersey

STATE FEDERATION



THE call to conference to consider the organization of a State federation was issued by the Woman's Club, of Orange, in the autumn of 1894. It was signed by Sarah M. Johnson, the then president; Margaret S. Yardley, chairman of Committee on State Federation; Charlotte Emerson Brown, of the Board of Directors General Federation; and Florence Howe Hall, State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation.

In response to this call sixty-five delegates assembled in Union Hall on Friday morning, November 16th, to discuss the advisability of forming a State federation of the women's clubs of New Jersey.

The sixty-five delegates represented thirty-seven clubs, and nomination for chairman being the first order, elected Mrs. S. M. Johnson, of Orange, as temporary presiding officer, and Mrs. Mary E. Hinds, of Elizabeth, secretary.

Introductory remarks upon the added strength of organization and federation in club work were made by Mrs. Johnson and Mrs. Florence Howe Hall; and then the chairman introduced Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, ex-president of the General Federation.

Mrs. Brown urged more rapid growth and the inspiration of numbers as reasons for State federation. "A State federation would awaken new interest, would multiply clubs, and double their membership, just as the General Federation has done throughout the nation."



MRS. FLORENCE HOWE HALL,
Chairman of State Correspondence for General
Federation

At the close of Mrs. Brown's remarks Mrs. Theodore Seward made the formal motion that the convention should now proceed to form a State federation. Opinions were called for, but the remarks from the various club-women were all in favor of immediate organization, and the question being put to vote, was carried unanimously. A committee of five was then appointed to draw up a provisional constitution, of which Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown was made chairman, and then came interesting reports of local club work—Mrs. Benjamin Strong, Three o'clock Club, and Mrs. Butler, Wednesday Afternoon Club, both of Montclair; Mrs. Oberlin Smith, Friday Club, Bridgeton; Mrs. A. C. Coursen, Fortnightly Jaunts, Madison; Mrs. E. D. Horton, Wednesday Morning Club, Cranford; Mrs. Brown, Monday Afternoon Club, Passaic; Mrs. C. C. Slesman, Felipa Magazine Club, Bayonne; Mrs. C. L. Crear, Rutherford Reading Club.

The adjournment was for luncheon, provided by the Woman's Club, of Orange.

The zeal of the delegates and the hospitality of the hostess club fostered the spirit of sociability which prevailed; and friendships were formed that would only end with life, and justified the motto of the Woman's Club, of Orange: "The best is yet to be."

The afternoon meeting was called to order at 2:10 P. M., and the report of the Committee on Constitution and By-laws adopted with few amendments.

The election for officers resulted as follows: President, Mrs. Margaret S. Yardley, Woman's Club, of Orange; vice-presidents, Mrs. Antoinette Brown Blackwell, Elmora Woman's Club; Miss Cecilia Gaines, of Odd Volumes and Jersey City Woman's Club; Mrs. E. D. Horton, Wednesday Morning Club, Cranford; Mrs. Benjamin



MRS. THEODORE F. SEWARD,
President Orange Woman's Club, New
Jersey



MRS. MARGARET SWAN YARDLEY,
First President New Jersey State Federation

McGrew, Monday Afternoon Club, Passaic; recording secretary, Miss Kate Erskine, Monday Club, of Plainfield; Mrs. L. C. Smith, Ray Palmer Club, of Newark; treasurer, Mrs. Augusta Cooper Bristol, the Talithi Cumi, Vineland; and auditor, Mrs. Caroline Van Meetam, Woman's Club, of Salem.

A letter from Mrs. Henrotin unfortunately reached Mrs. Brown too late to be read. In it Mrs. Henrotin said: "In forming these federations the clubs are only obeying an impulse which has its root in modern civilization—that of voluntary coöperation for moral culture and intellectual progress." Charter membership in the New Jersey State Federation included the Woman's Club, Orange; Friday Club, Bridgeton; Half Hour Reading Club, Merchantville; the Woman's Literary Union, Elizabeth; the Shakespeare Club, Elizabeth; Ninety-two Club, Elizabeth; Over the Teacups, Elizabeth; El Mora Woman's Literary and Social Club; Clio Club, Roselle; Octagon Club, Elizabeth; Monday Afternoon Club, Plainfield; the Racoses, Plainfield; the Fortnightly, East Orange; Woman's Reading Club, Rutherford; Ray Palmer Club, Newark; Current Topics Club, Newark; the Travellers' Club, Roseville; Woman's Literary Club, Arlington; Three o'Clock Club, Montclair; Montclair Wednesday Afternoon Club; Fortnightly Jaunts, Madison; Jersey City Woman's Club; Odd Volumes, Jersey City; Athena Club, Bayonne; Woman's Club, Salem; the Wednesday Morning Club, Cranford; the Monday Afternoon Club, Passaic; Summit Fortnightly Club; Political and Social Advancement Society, Bayonne; Felipa Magazine Club, Bayonne; Isabella Club, Verona; Woman's Saturday Night Club, Newark; the Columbian Literary Circle, Rahway; Home Reading Club, Rahway; Monday Club, Elizabeth; the Rambler Club, Jersey City; the Talithi Cumi Club, Vineland.

The first annual meeting occurred by invitation of the Newark clubs in Newark on October 24 and 25, 1895.

The auditorium of the Congregational Church had been tastefully decorated by the ladies of the hostess clubs; plants and palms made a bower for the speakers. Trailing vines draped the doors and windows, and the wall behind the platform was adorned with sprays of ivy and bittersweet, intermingled. Here hung the colors of the federation in long ribbons of buff and blue, while below shone the symbolic letters "N. J. S. F." in gold. Lilies-of-the-valley and many representative club flowers filled the tables. The officers were seated upon the platform. Mrs. Yardley, the president, occupied the centre, and around her were grouped the vice-presidents and other officers. Among the visitors were Rev. Phœbe A. Hanaford and Mrs. Mary Mumford, then vice-president of the General Federation.

At the opening of the convention there were perhaps two hundred women present, seventy-four of whom were delegates; but as the day wore

on, the auditorium, with a seating capacity of eight hundred, was filled to overflowing.

Prayer was offered by the Rev. Mrs. Blackwell, and an address of welcome by Rev. Phœbe Hanaford, in the name of the six Newark clubs at whose invitation the convention was held.

Mrs. Yardley responded to this greeting, and then gave her first annual address. It was a bright and cheering *résumé* of past connection with the club movement from the early years of Sorosis and the Woman's Club of Orange, through all their phases of developing club and federated life. She alluded feelingly to her personal loss in the death, in February, 1895, of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, and of the work prepared for the Columbian Exposition by the women of New Jersey, and afterwards sent to the State House at Trenton.

She spoke of the wonderful experience of twenty-five years in two women's clubs, the accumulation of vital experiences, the breaking down of social barriers, and the absolute avoidance of personal affairs, except when something is given or required.

She announced the selection of the lily-of-the-valley as an emblem, a pin from a design sent by the Wednesday Club, of Pasaaic, and colors, blue and buff, as befits a patriotic little State where so many battles were fought.

The recording secretary reported fifty clubs in the State federation, forty of whom were reported as charter members.

The corresponding secretary reviewed the size and number of the clubs in the different sections and cities in the State. The smallest club was one of eight members, the largest the Woman's Club, of Orange, with a membership of three hundred. Forty of the clubs had a limited membership.

The treasurer showed a balance of \$21.97 in the treasury, and the remaining time of the first day, after a brief address by Mrs. Mumford, was given to three-minute reports from clubs and a telegram from Mrs. Henrotin, sent from New Hampshire, where she was assisting in the formation of a State federation.

An interesting discussion on travelling libraries was opened by Mrs. Horton, third vice-president. She gave the history of travelling libraries, and urged the necessity of such for New Jersey. She described the work done in this way in the State of New York, and hoped the clubs would interest themselves in forming local libraries for their own and public benefit.

The evening was given to "Music and Its Interpretation," by Miss Emily Burbank.

The second day sessions opened at 9.30 A.M. with reports from clubs not heard from the day before. Mrs. Marshall gave an interesting account of village improvements in Montclair. Miss Gaines reported the Jersey City

Woman's Club as the only one that lived in their own hired house, and also the only one to issue an organ of their own, called the *Outlook*.

Philitscipoma, of Newark, has a name of its own invention, derived from its studies in philosophy, literature, science, poetry, oratory and art. It has been called "Club-not-afraid-of-its-name." It survives its thirteen letters, and is to start on the thirteenth day of the month with thirteen charter members.

The Ramblers' Club, of Jersey City, was reported by Miss Clerihue as restricted to graduates of Hasbrouck Institute. They take actual trips to interesting places in different parts of the country.

The afternoon was given to ten-minute addresses upon a variety of subjects. The first speaker was the Rev. Antoinette Brown Blackwell, whose theme was "Immortality." Mrs. Florence Howe Hall followed with a paper on "School Suffrage." Miss Mary Philbrook, a young lawyer of Hoboken, gave a comprehensive paper upon New Jersey laws relating to women.

Miss Cornelia Bradford spoke of the fine work among the factory operatives in Jersey City, under the head of "College Settlements." Mrs. Emily Williamson read an admirable paper on "State Charities," and Miss Adeline Sterling a paper on "Patriotic Societies." Mrs. H. L. Coolidge spoke on "Motherhood," and Rev. Phoebe Hanaford on "Evangelical Work Among Women." Perhaps the most important papers of the afternoon were by Miss Clara W. Greene, on "The Relation of Women to Public Schools," and one on "Women in Medicine," by Dr. W. Edwards.

The usual votes of thanks, and Mrs. Yardley's thanks for reelection to her office of president, ended the first annual convention of the State Federation of New Jersey.

A mid-year meeting of the State Federation in March, 1896, was of unusual interest, for it gathered in the Assembly Chamber of the State House at Trenton, by permission of the legislative body, and at the invitation of Mrs. Washington Roebling, a resident of Trenton, who welcomed the visitors and delegates from the speaker's chair, and gave an interesting historic summary of the part New Jersey, and particularly the women of New Jersey, had played in its history, concluding with a warm tribute to the State president, Mrs. Yardley, for her work in collecting the library of women writers of the State sent to the World's Fair.



MRS. W. ROEBLING,
Hostess Mid-Winter Meeting, New
Jersey State Federation

Mrs. Roebling, who finished the engineering work upon the Brooklyn Bridge, laid down by an invalided husband, is a woman of stately presence, and her address was the feature of the occasion. The men who listened to it said no finer had ever been addressed to an audience within those walls.

Mrs. Yardley added a greeting already extended, and introduced among the guests of the day Mrs. Mumford, vice-president of the General Federation; Mrs. Streeter, president of the New Hampshire Federation; Mrs. Dowst, president of the Maine Federation; Miss Amelia Knight, president of the Rhode Island Federation; Mrs. Croly, president of the New York Federation; Mrs. F. I. Helmuth, president of Sorosis; and Mrs. Osgood, of Maine, ex-president of the Maine State Federation. All these ladies responded to the cordiality of the introduction by brief words of greeting from their different organizations.

The first paper of the day was upon "The Scope of the State Federation," by Mrs. L. H. Johnson, president of the Orange Woman's Club. This paper was discussed by Mrs. Dr. Luther, of the Current Topics Club, of Newark; Mrs. Miller, of Plainfield; Mrs. Thompson, of East Orange; and Mrs. Crozier, of Salem.

Luncheon was given at the Trenton House, by invitation of Mrs. Roebling, to all the delegates and visitors.

The afternoon was given to papers on "Forestry Interests of New Jersey," "Household Economics," "Travelling Libraries," "Health Culture," and an eloquent address on "Woman's Place To-day," by Miss Annie Baston, of Canton.

Miss Baston is a highly trained woman and a natural orator. Her gifts of intellect, voice, and manner have been subject to the severest discipline of the schools, and the result is a mastery of subject and style very unusual in either men or women.

A novel exposition of "Parliamentary Drill," by Mrs. E. H. Osgood, and the singing of "The Star Spangled Banner" closed a brilliant session, which will always be memorable in the annals of the New Jersey State Federation.

A MEMORIAL SERVICE

An interesting and memorable occasion was the memorial service to Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, held by invitation of the president of the State Federation, Mrs. Margaret S. Yardley, and the chairman of State correspondence, Mrs. Florence Howe Hall, at the Trinity Congregational Church, East Orange, on March 22, 1895.

Delegations were present from a large number of clubs in New York and New Jersey; and letters of regret were received from prominent club-women in different parts of the country.

The exercises consisted of brief addresses from Mrs. Johnson, the president of the Woman's Club, of Orange; Mrs. Adeline Emerson Thompson, ex-president of the Orange Woman's Club, and a niece of Mrs. Brown; Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier, ex-president of Sorosis; Miss Florence Howe Hall; Mrs. J. C. Croly, honorary president of Sorosis; the Rev. Phoebe A. Hanaford; Mrs. Ella Dietz Clymer, ex-president of Sorosis, and Mrs. Antoinette Brown Blackwell.

Tributes paid by each of these women, several of whom had been closely associated with Mrs. Brown, formed an apotheosis of life and character.

There was no air of mourning permitted; plants and foliage were grouped about the platform, and the singing of Handel's "Angels Ever Bright and Fair," "Lead, Kindly Light," and the beautiful hymn, "Abide with Me," formed fitting interludes to other exercises which were introduced with taste and feeling by Mrs. Yardley.

An extract from a letter from Dr. Brown is here inserted:

"Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown's mental powers were so evenly developed that it is difficult to say in what she most excelled. From a child she had a passion for study, and devoted a large part of her time to reading and correspondence. Her memory was so remarkable that she never forgot anything she had once grasped, or any person she had even casually met. As presiding officer she was never at a loss for a name of person or organization, and in studying a subject she not only mastered it in outline, but in its minutest details. Her tact was wonderful. She knew just what she wanted to accomplish, and how to do it. She seldom antagonized, but won those who differed from her by pleasant ways and clear presentation of her own views. She had perfect self-command, was never off her guard even in the midst of surrounding excitement. She had decided opinions, and knew just what to do, and what not to undertake. When once she had determined upon a course, every faculty of her being was brought into requisition to secure the end. She was a woman of high ideals, which she sought to actualize in her own life. While she never sought place or honor for herself, she was recognized as a born leader, and pushed to the front by others. Her public record was only her home life enlarged. Perhaps her best work was that of correspondence, carried on in her own study with club-women all over the land."

The second annual meeting of the New Jersey State Federation took place on October 29th and 30th, at the Reform Church, Jersey City, by invitation of the Woman's Club, Ramblers' Club, and Odd Volumes.

The welcome from the Jersey City women's clubs to the federation was extended by Miss Cecilia Gaines, preceded by an invitation from Rev. Antoinette B. Blackwell. The response and address followed from the State president, Mrs. M. S. Yardley.

The minutes of the first annual meeting were read, and were followed by the secretaries' reports.

Mrs. Miles gave an encouraging account of the condition of the treasury, and the roll-call of delegates showed the additions made to the federation list were active and ready to take their part in the work.

The Woman's Research Club, of Atlantic City, was admitted to membership by the State federation, as a body.

The morning session concluded with reports from clubs that had joined the federation since 1895. The afternoon session, after a greeting from guests, was devoted to a discussion of the kindergarten, led by Mrs. F. S. Barnes, and of health protective associations, led by Mrs. Ralph Trautman, of New York, and Mrs. John Scribner, of Philadelphia.

The evening was given to a reception to delegates and guests from the hostess clubs, at the Jersey City Woman's Club house. The hospitality was warm, and the entertainment made memorable by fine music and a brilliant essay from Miss Agnes Repplier upon "The New Woman: Her Remote Antiquity."

Friday morning, October 30th, was given to papers upon "Rotation and Promotion in Office," by Mrs. F. H. Hall; "What the Legislature of 1896 Has Done for Women," by Miss Mary Philbrook, attorney-at-law; "The Whittier House of Jersey City," by Miss Cornelia Bradford, and "Armenia," by Miss W. Armstrong.

After luncheon came the election of officers, resulting in the choice of Miss Cecilia Gaines for State president, and the election of Mrs. Margaret S. Yardley as honorary president for life. Her gratified response to this honor was followed by the introduction of the new officers, and the singing of a federation song, written by Marion Conthony Smith, whose poem won the prize at the World's Fair. The song follows:

Daughters of freedom's land,
Ready with heart and hand,
 Strong for the right!
Now raise your voices high,
In one clear song reply
To life's appealing cry,
 For love and light!

Why stand we here to-day?
Why, but to make the way
 For hope's glad feet?
Bidding the world aspire
To purer aims and higher,
That home's own altar-fire
 Burn bright and sweet.

Daughters of freedom's land,
Holding truth's torch ye stand,
Crowned with God's grace !
That this great age may see
How fair its destiny,
And they who come may be
A nobler race !

The third annual meeting of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs was held in Camden, October 28 and 29, 1897, by invitation of six neighboring clubs. It was a notable gathering of earnest and enthusiastic women, led and inspired by the president of the association, Miss Cecilia Gaines, of Jersey City. Miss Gaines has worked untiringly for the New Jersey clubs, and shown a wonderful appreciation of their needs, to which is added a practical and effective way of supplying them.

There is no doubt that to her clear-sightedness and promptness of action are due the satisfactory arrangements for the convention, no less than that her magnetic personality, ready wit, and unflinching tact made the meetings a success, and established an *entente cordiale* whose influence can never be forgotten. The keynote of the two days' proceedings was education. Miss Gaines gave an important and masterly address on the educational value of federation. This was followed by discussions on the public schools—what their needs are, what women can do for them, and how to provide the best books for school children.

The second morning was taken up with interesting reports from the library, kindergarten, town improvement, and forestry departments, all going to show that women all over the State are awake to the importance of making themselves a force for good to men, women, and children alike, and that they have by gentle, womanly influence and persistent endeavor already accomplished gratifying results for the uplifting of their little corner of the universe.

The afternoon of the second day was devoted to historical matters, and opened with an illustrated musical lecture on "America's Song Makers," by Mrs. Alfred Chester Coursen, of Madison. To quote a newspaper report, this "was charmingly rendered, with songs selected from the Indian and negro music, and from earlier and later composers. Mrs. Coursen has a fine contralto voice, and her singing added much to the enjoyment of her address, which was received with great enthusiasm."

Mrs. Julia Keese Collis, of Morristown, then gave an address on "Historical New Jersey," on which subject she is an undoubted authority. This proved very interesting, and "was full of clever allusions and dramatic and picturesque incidents."

On the evening of the 28th instant Miss Mary Blauvelt Taylor, a graduate of Wellesley College, and one of the honor women of Oxford, England, gave a very fine address on the poetry of Robert Browning, and Miss Fisher, of Milwaukee, sang most delightfully.

To an observant mind the one great impulse of the proceedings seemed to be an earnest desire by concerted action to set up in their midst the highest standards of living, and by their work and influence help to build up what Miss Gaines eloquently portrays in her address as "characters that may be bulwarks for the nation's honor; statesmen that are clear-minded; citizens that are loyal; masters that are merciful, and public servants that are honest."

The latest work of the president and federated women of New Jersey was an investigation of the condition of the palisades of the Hudson River, and an effort to rescue them from the work of destruction that has been going on for some time past, to the serious detriment of one of the most beautiful and historic features of the western shore of New Jersey and New York.

The beauty has been destroyed by four large quarries, scattered almost from Fort Lee to Snedens. Not only have the bluffs been defaced by blasting, but the river front below the quarries has been denuded of verdure, to permit the easy transportation of stone from the base of the rock to the water's edge.

The scheme which the women have in hand is the purchase by condemnation proceedings by the States of New Jersey and New York of the narrow strip of land between the base of the bluffs and the water's edge, from Fort Lee to Piermont, a distance of thirteen miles, and its conversion into a public park and driveway.

The New Jersey State Federation has added to its department of forestry, "Protection of the Palisades." Mrs. John Gifford, of Trenton, is the chairman.

There are now seventy clubs recorded in the federation. Of these Elizabeth contributes eight; Newark, seven; Plainfield, six; Jersey City, four; Montclair, four; Rahway, four; Bayonne, three; Merchantville, two; Rosselle, two, and twenty-five other towns, one each.

The membership of these local clubs ranges from eight, a Current Events Club, to three hundred, the highest recorded, and representing the Orange Woman's Club. The Woman's Club, of Jersey City, follows with a list of two hundred active workers.

History, literature, education, and current topics are included in the work of nearly all the clubs. Others make special features of music, town and village improvement, social and political science, sociology, and parliamentary law.

A very comprehensive year-book has been issued for 1898. It announces

that the next annual meeting of the federation will be held by invitation of the federated clubs of Elizabeth in that city, in October, 1898. All clubs making a practical study of the principles of sociology are requested to send reports of the same to the corresponding secretary, with a view of making this the main topic for discussion at the Elizabeth meetings.

The Woman's Club, of Orange, was the pioneer club of New Jersey, and had but few predecessors in the United States. It was founded by Mrs. Louisa Lord Riley, who, knowing something of the first organizations, believed it would be useful to the women of Orange to broaden their mental horizon, and introduce a stimulating variety to their thought.



In response to the invitation of Mrs. Riley, fifteen ladies met at her house on Wednesday afternoon, February 7, 1872, to compare views as to the advisability of forming a society for the discussion of topics of social and general importance. Mrs. Henrietta W. Johnson was elected temporary chairman, and three meetings were held without further organization. The question, "Do women of the middle and upper classes do their share of work in the world?" was adopted for discussion at the next meeting.

At the fourth meeting, held April 3, 1872, a permanent organization was effected, and a constitution adopted. Mrs. Henrietta W. Johnson was elected president; Mrs. K. K. Browning, first vice-president; Mrs. Louisa L. Riley, second vice-president, and Mrs. Agnes I. Colton, secretary. Two committees were appointed, one on literature and science and one on domestic economy.

In the constitution the object of the club was stated to be "the discussion of topics of social and general importance, for the purpose of awakening in its members a more vital interest in such topics."

A list of topics discussed in those early days makes interesting historical reading, and throws a strong light on the progress of the times. A few taken at random are as follows:

- "How shall women be encouraged to develop expression of thought?"
- "Does a liberal education benefit a person for practical life?"
- "Has the Centennial Exposition proved deleterious or beneficial?"
- "Has the American girl too much liberty?"
- "What is true hospitality?"
- "Do women take sufficient interest in the construction of their dwellings?"
- "How can we avoid nervous prostration?"
- "Would it be more advisable to civilize the Indians or to compel them to live upon their reservations?"



ADALINE EMERSON THOMPSON,
Ex-President of Orange Woman's Club,
New Jersey

In view of the mild and harmless character of these questions, it is almost pathetic to see recorded that it took the Orange Woman's Club seven years to double its original membership of fifteen, and that this slow growth was largely due to "the prejudice which then existed against the formation of clubs for women."

Traditions are still extant of the joys of those early Wednesday afternoons, when meeting from house to house in the roomy, old-fashioned parlors of Orange, this handful of cultivated women, one in interest and congenial in taste, exchanged their views on practical, literary, social, or educational matters, and tested their powers in writing and speaking before an audience too interested and friendly to embarrass or restrain them.

No doubt these founders and early members of the club, most of whom are with us to this day, sometimes sigh as they look over our overflowing audience room and the roll of three hundred names, regretting the good old days of informality and intimate companionship.

In the winter of 1875-76 a committee on schools was appointed of five members.

These ladies spent at least two half days each month in visiting schools, and reported quarterly to the club. At the end of the year the chairman of the committee prepared a paper, to be presented to the Board of Education of Orange and the Trustees of East and West Orange, stating that in general they found much to commend in the schools, and making some suggestions in regard to heat and ventilation. This paper was politely received by the Orange Board of Education, and published entire. The county superintendent expressed himself as much gratified by the interest manifested in the schools, and sent to each member of the committee the annual report of the public schools of the State.

Considerable difficulty was experienced during the earlier years in obtaining subjects for consideration, and in the winter of 1877 a rule was adopted requiring each member to furnish one topic yearly or pay a fine of fifty cents. In 1878, amendments to the constitution and by-laws gave greater definiteness to the work, and the annual fee was increased from fifty cents to one dollar.

In the years 1879 and 1880 the membership increased to forty-four, and the average attendance to nineteen; the meetings were still held in private houses.

Four afternoons in the year were devoted to literary subjects, and eleven to practical topics, every one of which was opened by an original paper.

The attendance during 1880-81 was larger than in any previous year, reaching an average of twenty. The annual reception of this year was unique in character. It was held at the house of Mrs. Browning, in Llewellyn Park, in the month of May, when the spring foliage and the rhododendrons were in their fullest beauty. Only members were invited. Simple refreshments were served, and the meeting was made interesting by each one telling what the club had done for her.

By March, 1881, the membership numbered fifty, and the meetings were held in the New England Society's room. The permanency of place, as well as its central location and tasteful furnishing, made this a delightful home, and it was used continuously for five years, until the club outgrew the room which at first seemed so ample.

Through all the earlier years of the club a great unwillingness to accept office prevailed, and at each election the difficulty was not to choose officers, but to induce them to accept. This was largely due to lack of experience, coupled with a humble estimate, on the part of the members, of their own ability.

In 1885 the membership had reached seventy-two, and for the second time a manual was published, or year-book, containing the names of members, the constitution and by-laws, and a complete list of topics.

The year 1888 was a very prosperous one for the club in regard to all its interests, both literary and social, the only drawback being the difficulty of finding a satisfactory place of meeting. In 1889 thirty-two members were added, the third manual was published, and Masonic Hall was hired for the meetings, where there was ample space for growth. The membership fee was increased to two dollars, and an entrance fee of three dollars was required. The cost of hiring a hall, and the rescinding of the rule requiring fines for non-presentation of topics, necessitated an increased revenue.

In 1890 a new departure was made by adopting a plan of work better suited to the increased size of the club. Up to this time there had been a committee on topics, which selected one for each meeting, and the member proposing it opened the discussion.

Instead of this method nine committees were appointed, each in charge of a department, to arrange programmes for two meetings each year. The committees were on literature and history, science, art, house and home, ethical culture and reform, education, political and social science, Lectures and entertainments, and miscellaneous.

The Executive Committee consisted of the general officers and chairmen of committees.

The General Federation of Women's Clubs, founded by Sorosis in 1889, was ratified, and a complete organization effected in March, 1890.

The Orange Woman's Club at once joined the General Federation, and during the same year became incorporated, so that it could hold property, sue and be sued.

The high-water mark of the year was reached at the annual reception, which was held at the residence of Mr. Thomas A. Edison. The Council of the Federation of Women's Clubs, which consists of all the presidents of all the clubs belonging to the federation, was invited to this gathering, and the Orange Club had the pleasure of welcoming to its banquet seventy presidents.

In the winter of 1892-93 the membership was limited to two hundred. The annual dues were raised to three dollars, and the entrance fee remained the same. In 1885 a by-law was adopted providing that no member should be eligible to the same office for a third consecutive term; this year the by-law was made applicable to chairmen as well.

A change was made in the programme by which every third meeting should be informal, and the subject "Current Topics." The aim of these meetings was to promote free discussion.

The Woman's Club, of Orange, at the present day, has a limited membership of three hundred, with always a waiting list. The initiation fee is five dollars and the annual dues eight dollars.

The club makes its home in an auditorium and parlors which it rents from the Woman's Christian Temperance Union, of Orange.

The intellectual work is conducted under six different departments, representing the club's different lines of study, namely: economics, art, education, literature, science, and current topics. These departments are really classes for study, which hold regular meetings outside of the regular club afternoons, and are, perhaps, the most delightful and instructive features of the club.

It is ordinarily from the studies pursued in these departments that the programmes for the regular afternoons of the club are prepared, and through this admirable system the papers presented become the result of much study and research. Music is frequently introduced between the papers, and they are followed by discussion. Although there is always a fair balance in the treasury, and the facilities for engaging outside talent in a community so near the metropolis are always at hand, it is an unwritten law that such entertainments shall not take place on regular club afternoons, and that the programmes for the regular work should be provided by the members of the club.

There are also three standing committees, house and home, introduction, and membership, upon whom much of the labor and responsibility falls. Upon the first of these, assisted by the second, rests not only the care for the

comfort of the club, but the responsibility of the numerous receptions to celebrities, the teas and annual breakfasts which the age and social prominence of this club demand.

The Woman's Club, of Orange, has had eleven presidents. Some of these have been brilliant women, and others remarkable for administrative ability. Notable among them was Charlotte Emerson Brown, president of the Orange Club from 1888 to 1890, who afterwards became the first president of the Federation of Women's Clubs.

Clubs, like individuals, have a personality.

In the Woman's Club, of Orange, is felt its good stock and the gentle blood of its founders. In enlarging its borders, as the club idea has become popular, they tell us that it has become the resort of the wealthy and the fashionable, and so it has; and these newcomers have brought with them all the charm and brightness that youth and wealth and fashion give, but not exclusiveness, not flippancy, not slighting nor unworthy work, not hyper-criticism. In a wide-spreading community like that of the Oranges, so near the metropolis as to be metropolitan in its character, the Woman's Club is perhaps the one place in Orange where all distinctions but those of worth or ability are levelled away. In the Woman's Club an Orange woman stands for what she is worth and what she can do; and the club motto is, "The best is yet to be."

M. H. F.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Bound Brook, was organized in December, 1885. Its sole object is literary culture. Regular meetings are held on every Monday afternoon at the houses of members. The number is limited to thirty. During the first winter the study of mediæval history occupied nearly the entire year. Two of Shakespeare's plays were not only read, but studied: "Richard III." and "Julius Cæsar."

During the second winter "White's Eighteen Centuries" formed the textbook of historical reading, and the light reading was miscellaneous.

Third winter: British and American authors, alternately and chronologically.

Fourth winter: Æsop, Ruskin, Turner and his work. Later programmes outlined studies of Thackeray, George Eliot, George Sand, and more recent authors. After the literary exercises five o'clock tea is served, and half an hour given to social enjoyment. The president is Mrs. C. H. Libbey; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. I. Livingston. Its membership is forty active women.

The Monday Afternoon Club, of Plainfield, was founded in 1888 by an educator, Miss Eliza Elvira Kenyon, as the result of a series of "mothers' meetings."

Its expressed object was intellectual and social culture through studies in the various fields of literature, science, art, and subjects of general interest. The membership was limited to one hundred and twenty-five, and candidates accepted or rejected by the Nominating Committee, two negatives constituting a rejection.

The regular meetings are held on the first and third Mondays of each month, from October to May, the Executive Committee arranging the plans for study. Subjects for discussion are given out at least one month in advance, "current events" occupying a short time at each meeting.

The work in the beginning dealt largely with the folk-lore of different nations, interspersed with short papers on educational and other topics. This was followed by study of the "Silent Classes of the Nation, the Indians, the Chinese, and Women." "Goethe and the German Lied" was an interesting subject, and was followed by close studies of French history and art, the "Influence of Italian Renaissance," and the later schools.

There have been occasional lectures, and always more or less discussion of current topics. But the first object of serious study is never lost sight of.

The list of books to be studied in reference to any subject furnishes a complete reference library, and is of the highest order.

The president for 1896-97 was Mrs. William H. Sterling; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Charles Lawson. The Monday Afternoon Club was a charter member of the General Federation, sharing this honor with the Woman's Club, of Orange. The president (1898) is Mrs. E. C. Perkins; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. Lawson.

A peculiar feature of this club is its "shadow," a club of gentleman that discuss the subjects upon its programme.

El Mora Literary and Social Club.—This is a literary organization of about twenty members, and meets in their homes.

The El Mora Club antedates any club of similar scope in Elizabeth (of which El Mora is a suburb). It is probably true that the woman's club is often most needed, and flourishes best in small communities. Mrs. Antoinette Brown Blackwell, the first woman ordained as a minister in this country, is an honorary member of the El Mora Club. Mrs. H. A. Clare, through whose efforts the Woman's Literary Union (of clubs) of Elizabeth was formed, is another member. A Shakespeare club of ladies and gentlemen is an outgrowth.

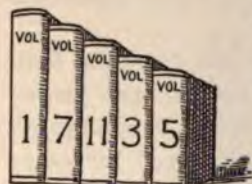
The organization dates from 1886, and the work has been continuous, but was somewhat desultory until 1890, when the study was given to Emerson and Ruskin. Original papers were required from the members, and discussion followed their reading.

The adoption of this plan stimulated the interest. Members were added

who gave force to the intellectual exercises, and afternoon tea to close the programme added zest to the social part.

In 1891 the fifth annual meeting was held at the residence of Mrs. Blackwell. It was very successful. Mrs. A. D. Pope was the president of that year, and Mrs. S. L. Armstrong secretary. Japan alternating with readings from magazines and conversation on current topics formed the basis of work, the interest deepening with every meeting. Literary subjects have always held the first place in this club, but during the past few years a great deal of attention has been given to kindergarten work and its practical demonstration. The president is Mrs. Mary E. Hibbard; corresponding secretary, Mrs. A. C. Childs.

Odd Volumes.—In the autumn of 1888, at the proposition of Miss Cecilia Gaines, several of her friends met at her home in Jersey City to organize for some intellectual pursuit. After consideration "Current Literature" was chosen. Miss Gaines was made president, and Mrs. Horace B. Merrill secretary and treasurer.



ODD VOLUMES

The charter members were Miss Gaines, Mrs. Wolff, Mrs. Cavalli, Mrs. Merrill, Miss Adriana, Miss Hewetsen, Miss Post, Miss Kenzel, Miss Godfrey, Miss Carrington, Miss Spear, Miss Kühne, Miss Van Winkle, Miss Henry, Mrs. Robottom, Mrs. Biglow. The meetings were held every two weeks at the homes of the members. After consideration the name "Odd Volumes" was deemed most comprehensive for the work of the club, as its members proposed to buy and circulate among themselves the best books on any subjects of interest published.

The organization was, at first, very informal, its proceedings being conducted with the minimum amount of parliamentary law necessary to order and decorum. In the second year a constitution and by-laws were adopted. From the beginning the spirit of fraternity most strongly manifested itself. With time new names were added to the list of membership, until it was thought advisable to limit the number to twenty-five; later the limit was extended to thirty-five. Rotation in office is the club's custom, with the exception of its president, Miss Gaines, who has directed its affairs with the greatest tact and ability. The vice-presidents have been Miss Katharine Speir, Mrs. Marcus Black, Mrs. George Case, Miss Katherine Cohen, and Mrs. Beach. In the club's fourth year Miss Adriana acted as secretary and treasurer. After this year these offices were filled separately, that of secretary by Mrs. George Gifford, Miss Crowen, Miss Pitcher (two years), Miss McBride; and these last two years the office of corresponding secretary has been added, and filled by Miss Bowen.

Three seasons of "Current Literature" were followed by "United States History," "French History," "English Essayists," "Italy," and "Holland." These alternated with topics of current interest, subsequently merged in a department of current events, and made part of the regular programme.

The members show the value of this work in a constantly higher order of literary effort. It is felt that "Odd Volumes" has been an inspiration and incentive such as could have been supplied by no other means.

During the first four years the club dues were one dollar annually to each member, expended in the books required for study.

The greater facilities now afforded by public and private libraries gave new direction to the expenditure of club funds, enabling it to make the acquaintance of many distinguished men through the medium of lectures.

It has also established an annual club "breakfast," to which guests are invited, a delightful social addition to the musicales and other entertainments given by its members to the club.

Club spirit has been fostered by affiliation with State and National Federations, and an interesting event was an invitation by Cosmos, the professional men's club of Jersey City, to its annual dinner on Washington's birthday in 1896. In the same year "Odd Volumes" was honored by seeing its president elected to the presidency of the Jersey City Woman's Club, and later chosen by the club-women of New Jersey to fill the highest position, that of State president.

The devotion of the members to the club and to each other has grown with the years, and is fully expressed in the pride and pleasure they feel in being "Odd Volumes." The president (1898) is Miss Cecilia Gaines; corresponding secretary, Miss Helen Noble. Membership limited to thirty-five.
A. A.

The Woman's Reading Club of Rutherford.—On January 27, 1889, a small group of women met at the house of Mrs. Riggs, in response to an invitation from her, to consider the formation of a literary club for mutual pleasure and instruction.

The statement of the need of such a club met with a warm response, and the organization was at once effected, with Mrs. Riggs as president.

The study of Italy, its history, art, and literature, varied by music, was the first work undertaken by the club. Original papers, showing varied talent and research, were followed by discussion. The club became a sort of beacon light in the neighborhood, and grew in interest and numbers. The parlors of the president became too small, and the Union Club kindly offering the free use of a fine room in its new club-house, the courtesy was gratefully accepted.

The study of Germany followed that of Italy, and proved equally pleasant and profitable.

In 1893 Mrs. Caster became the president, and the study selected was contemporaneous history, followed in 1894 by the French Revolution, alternating with some of Shakespeare's plays.

During this year the club was incorporated and also joined the General Federation. By this time it had largely grown in membership, and a movement was begun for the establishment of a free public library, which proved



LIBRARY AND CLUB-ROOM, WOMAN'S READING CLUB, RUTHERFORD, N. J.

entirely successful. The townspeople of Rutherford aided in this work, and in 1897 a handsome brownstone building was given by Mr. D. B. Ivison for a library home.

In 1895 the Woman's Reading Club allied itself with the State federation, and took up the study of "India, Hindoo, and Mohammedan." It also has "authors' days," in which new books and their authors form a subject of discussion.

It has now a Shakespeare committee, of which Mrs. Margaret G. Riggs is the chairman; a committee on music and a committee on entertainment. The critics are Mrs. C. Caster and Mrs. G. T. Hollister; the librarian, Mrs. E. G. Welsh; assistant librarian, Miss Cummings.

The president is Mrs. A. W. Van Winkle; vice-president, Mrs. Gnade; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Robert Smillie. From twenty-two charter members the club has grown to a membership of one hundred and fifty, and is an acknowledged power.



WOMAN'S READING CLUB, OF RUTHERFORD, N. J.

MRS. GNADE, Vice-President
 MRS. ROBERT SMILLIE, Corresponding Secretary MRS. KATHERINE VAN WINKLE, President
 MRS. MARGARET RIGGS, Founder



The Monday Afternoon Club, of Passaic, was founded in 1890. Its object is "the development of its members intellectually and socially, and to aid general coöperation among women."

Its growth, at first somewhat slow and difficult, received a new impulse in 1891, when it added largely to its original membership. In 1892 it became allied to the General Federation, and to the State federation in 1895.

Its work has been of a literary rather than studious character, consisting of papers followed by discussion upon a variety of topics, but mainly literary and social. The women composing the membership are largely of a thinking, educated class, and their topics have been derived from their interest in authors, and the social questions of the day affecting education and the welfare of the community. Fine music has been a feature of their gatherings.

The presidents have been Mrs. L. T. Fuller, Mrs. L. B. Barry, Mrs. I. P. Sylvester, Mrs. A. L. McGrew, who was also vice-president of the State federation; and Miss S. E. Demarest, who is the present presiding officer. The corresponding secretary is Mrs. H. O. Totten. The membership is forty-four.

Fortnightly Jaunts.—On the 21st of March, 1890, there assembled in the pretty home of one of them in Madison, N. J., seven women, who agreed "*Hic et Ubique*," to form a club for literary work, musical recreation, and social intercourse.

A constitution was adopted, limiting the number of members to twelve, which was at once made up.

The selection of these women was not without thoughtful consideration, in order that the club might prove to be a congenial body, and each member capable of enhancing its interest and value. Fortnightly Jaunts became its name, and "*Hic et Ubique*" (Here and Everywhere) its motto. Here was a limitless field for action: "To beguile from the too engrossing details of domestic life, by contact with other minds; to lift them above the pettiness of provincial limitations by looking into those broad lives that, for ages, have blessed the world, and to enlarge their horizon by visiting lands far to the north, east, south, and west of them, was the avowed object of this little association."

The first year the subjects were scattering; then "The Brownings," and, as a natural sequence, "Italy through Casa Guidi Windows"; "Scandinavia, Mythical and Real," "Berlin," "An Afternoon with Goethe and Mendelssohn," "Shakespeare's Midsummer Night's Dream," "A Florentine Monograph, from Dante to Savonarola," "A Jaunt in Ionia," "A Goldsmith Matinee," "In the Czar's Country," "When Chaucer Sung," "Fanny Burney and Her Friends," "A Yuletide Retrospect."

The second year's work was likewise desultory. At Christmas, Fortnightly Jaunts had her little tree, and sang her wassail song. At the close of the second year this club felt the need of systematic work, and it was decided to take up a course of study in German literature, beginning with the twelfth century. A synopsis was accordingly arranged by the president, and committees on programmes appointed for the season of '92-'93.

The work was undertaken and accomplished with so much enthusiasm that the idea has been carried out ever since.

The following year a like course in French literature and history was planned, beginning with the Troubadours in the tenth century, and ending with the reign of Louis XIV.

One feature of the meetings is the music, which must always be either contemporaneous with the subject, or illustrative of it.

There is one interesting feature of the exercises held by this club, and that is the reading of the minutes. The keeper of the minutes is appointed each time by the committee in charge of the programme for the day, and far from following the usual monotonous course, the writer thereof employs all her originality to produce something sprightly and unexpected. These have taken the form of chronicles, letters, rhymes, parodies, plays, dreams, newspaper reports, telephonic communications, and visitations from the spirit world. At the close of each club year the anniversary is celebrated. This usually takes the form of a luncheon, to which the four honorary members are invited. Here the club flower, the jonquil, bedecks the board, and yellow, the club color, brightens the decorations. On these joyful occasions, toasts are given and responded to amidst great applause. After the luncheon, two officers—a president, and a secretary and treasurer—are chosen by ballot for the succeeding year, and the annual dues (one dollar and twenty-five cents from each member) are paid.

Occasionally, Fortnightly Jaunts gives an evening entertainment to friends of the club, consisting of specially interesting numbers taken from different programmes, and once in three months there has been a debate or a discussion; a lively one on "Woman's Suffrage" was listened to one evening with profound attention by the men of the respective families represented in the club.

Fortnightly Jaunts has joined the General and State Federations, and the result of its work has been to make enthusiasts of those who felt its influence. The president is Miss Mary C. Holden; corresponding secretary, Miss H. Yeamans. The present membership is sixteen.

The Ray Palmer Club, of Newark, was founded in 1892. It was named for the Rev. Dr. Ray Palmer, the well-known writer of hymns, who lived in the part of Newark in which the club was started, and was at one time the pastor of several of the first eighteen members.

It was organized with Mrs. Laura G. C. Smith as the president, and committees upon literature, art, philanthropy, home, and current events. Its object was social, intellectual, and ethical culture, and it enforces rotation in office by providing for succession after two consecutive terms.

The programmes are miscellaneous in character, and deal largely with home or social subjects. Music and current events are features. On a day when there was a paper on "Growing Old Gracefully," the answers to roll-call were upon "How to Keep Young." "Homes of American Statesmen,"

"American Poets," "Our Foreign Relations," "Electricity," "Evolution of the Home," and "Reasons Why Houses Are Not Always Homes," have been among the subjects discussed.

Among its social events was a luncheon at the Essex County Club House, which is still remembered.

It has given a course of parliamentary law lectures, to which other club members were invited.

It is in a very prosperous condition, and has more than doubled upon its original membership. The president is Mrs. H. B. Sayre; the corresponding secretary, Miss M. Beardsley. The present list of members is forty-five, and it has added the study of sociology from the scientific point of view to its departments of work.

The Jersey City Woman's Club was organized in March, 1894, as the result of an invitation issued by Mrs. Laura M. Westhall, wife of the Unitarian minister, to a number of representative women, and asked Mrs. Florence Howe Hall to address them on the subject of a woman's club.

*"In great things unity;
in small things liberty;
in all things charity."*

The organization was effected with a charter membership of twenty-five, and the following list of officers: President, Miss Cecilia Gaines; vice-president, Mrs. G. W. Clerihew; recording secretary, Mrs. A. J. Newbury; corresponding secretary, Miss A. D. Fuller; treasurer, Mrs. S. Palmer. These officers were re-elected for second and third terms. The object of the club, as stated in the constitution, is "to awaken interest in subjects which especially concern women; to stimulate inquiry in questions of public significance, and to promote effort toward social and educational advancement."

The club was organized with departments in education, literature, philanthropy, health protection, and woman's exchange.

The Educational Committee has taken up the study of parliamentary law and social economy during its existence, and has had monthly papers on current topics read at its meetings.



JERSEY CITY WOMAN'S CLUB HOUSE, N. J.

The Literature Committee has for its work the study of current literature, fiction, travel, and biography. Its meetings are well attended and very interesting. The philanthropic department has since its organization maintained classes in economical cooking for the wives of laboring men, successfully managed a club of working girls which is in its third year of prosperity, and in the winter of 1897 opened and supported a free kindergarten for poor children. It has also provided many homes and hospitals with clothing and reading matter, as well as delicacies. Its work is systematically carried on, and much good results therefrom.

The committee having charge of the Woman's Exchange has for three years successfully cared for an Exchange for women's work, thereby enabling many women to become self-supporting. This is still in operation, and is a pride to the city.

Club meetings are devoted to business and the interest of some one of the departments, and are held on the first Thursday of each month, from October to May, inclusive. Reports are given, and the club listens to one or more speakers either from its own membership or some near-by club, who gives interesting and instructive talks on the topics of the day. In addition to the regular meetings, it has given two receptions at the close of each year of club existence, the first one in honor of Mrs. Henrotin, the president of the General Federation; the second to the then State president, Mrs. Margaret T. Yardley. October (1896), in conjunction with the two other women's clubs in Jersey City, it entertained the State federation, holding a two days' session, and an evening reception to which Mrs. Alice Ives Breed, the vice-president of the General Federation, came as guest.

In October, the president of the Jersey City Woman's Club was elected president of the New Jersey State Federation of Women's Clubs, which numbers among its members the first woman lawyer in New Jersey, a physician who is a member of the State Board of Charities, the head-worker of the only College Settlement in New Jersey, one of the vice-presidents of Evelyn College, the professor of classics in the High School, also the principal of the Manual Training School, and many women prominent in philanthropic and public work in both the State and city.

For the last two years the club has issued monthly a little paper called *Our Club Outlook*. It gives the records of all the departments, and a summary of proceedings. It is edited by the corresponding secretary, and well repays the time expended upon it. It is now voted a necessity as a means of information to the members, which number upwards of two hundred, with four honorary. The president is Mrs. J. L. Scudder; corresponding secretary, Dr. Florence D. Hart; permanent federation secretary and editor, Miss A. D. Fuller.

The Athena, of Bayonne, dates from 1892. Its limit of membership is twenty-four, and its work is social culture, travel, and debate. One meeting in every month was given for several years to Shakespeare, and one to travel. The others are miscellaneous in character.

The Woman's Literary and Musical Study Club, of Bayonne, gives its time to the study of composers and their music, with practical illustration of their work. Every fourth meeting is devoted to literary exercises, varied in character, but usually relating to social or current topics.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Bound Brook, was organized in 1885. Its studies have been derived from American history, and English and American literature, with critical discussions of authors, and their place in their world.

Bridgeton has a Friday Club, organized in 1880. Its work, contemporaneous history and current events. The membership is seventeen, and the president, Mrs. Oberlin Smith.

The Woman's Club, of Camden, is very recent. It started in 1895 with twelve members, but has grown to eighty. It has classes in French, German, whist, kindergarten work, and physical culture. Literature is the basis of its other work.

The Wednesday Morning Club, of Cranford, began in 1891, with four "*Noblesse oblige.*" members. It has now thirty-one, and is working for a free library. Its motto is "*Noblesse oblige.*"

The oldest club in Elizabeth is the Shakespeare, organized in 1883. It has a membership of twenty-four, and, in addition to Shakespearean work, has made a study of University Extension and the Eastern Question.

"'92" Club, which began as a group in 1883, for the reading of magazines, has made a study of English and American history and literature, and topics of the day of special importance to women. Meetings are held every Monday evening, from November until May, and four papers are prepared for each meeting. Current events are also discussed, and every live question brought before the club. The president is Miss M. E. Hinds, a very able woman, called by Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown her "right hand" during her presidency of the General Federation. Only unmarried women are eligible to membership; marriage forfeits it.

Over the Tea Cups was organized in 1890. It has a membership of thirty women, who do not approve of written papers, although they made a very close and interesting study of English literature for four years. When a distinguished man or woman dies, his or her life is studied from all obtainable sources, and its results estimated.

The Clio Club, of Roselle, starting with eight members in 1884, has an active membership of thirty. A circulating library of seven hundred vol-

umes has been established through the efforts of the club, and a new organization of twenty-five young ladies formed, called the Clio Juniors. A Village Improvement Society has been very successful under the auspices of members of this club. History and literature furnish their basis of work.

The Club of Current Events has a membership of thirty women, most of them residents of Washington Park, Plainfield. It was founded in 1892, and requires every member to serve on a standing committee, of which there are seven, numbered alphabetically from A to G. Current events is a feature of every meeting, but in addition to this some special subject forms a basis of study, sometimes through several months. Among these have been architecture, political economy, and British essayists. It is hospitable in inviting guests to be present at its social meetings and lectures, and its friends gladly avail themselves of this privilege.

The Shrewsbury Reading Club, of Eatontown, began as a reading circle in 1877. Its chief object is to sustain a village library, but it studies literature and music, makes a distinct feature of tourist trips, and discusses interesting questions.

The Woman's Club, of Salem, has a membership of one hundred, and a waiting list. It was founded in 1892, and has studied ancient and modern history, literature, and art. Some attention is paid to current events, and occasional musicals form a pleasant feature of the social club life. One of the members of this club was the first auditor of the State federation.

The Ramblers' Club, of Jersey City, is restricted to graduates of Hasbrouck Institute. The membership take actual trips to interesting places throughout the country.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Arlington, was founded by Mrs. M. D. Crowell, who became its first president. Mrs. Crowell was subsequently honored by being made honorary president, in recognition of her services in laying the foundation of a useful and prosperous organization.

Charlotte Emerson Brown Club, of Orange, was named for the first president of the General Federation. Mrs. Brown was interested in its formation, but died before its actual organization. It received instruction in parliamentary law during its first years from Dr. Brown, and takes as its basis of work literature and science. It has now a membership of forty. The president is Mrs. E. V. McGee; the corresponding secretary is Mrs. D. A. Beck.

The Octagon Club, of Elizabeth, started with eight members, and thus obtained their name. When they became fifteen it was called "Octagon Plus." Their studies in history and literature they are obliged to give in their own words to the club, without the help of a written paper or notes.

The Jersey City Woman's Club has the honor of having the only clubhouse in the State.

The name of almost every club explains itself. There are Monday Clubs, Wednesday Clubs, Friday Clubs, and even a Saturday Night Club.

Two clubs claim Athena for their godmother. Four are reading clubs. The Felipa Magazine Club, of Bayonne, is so called in honor of Columbus' wife, and the Isabella Club, of Verona, was named for Isabella of Spain.

Thirteen clubs are called Woman's Clubs, with or without a prefix, while the names of a few others explain the special object of their existence.

Of the seventy clubs in the State federation, twelve are members of the General Federation. Of these Montclair has two and Plainfield has two. There are two clubs whose initiation fees are five dollars, and their annual dues three dollars. These are the highest.

One club has no regular fee or dues, but assesses its members when necessary, while two clubs have only twenty-five cents yearly dues.

The Woman's Literary Union, of Elizabeth.—The Literary Union is composed of eight literary clubs: Over the Tea Cups, The Clio, and Clio Junior, of Roselle; the El Mora Literary Club, Shakespearean, '92 Club, Octagon, and Fortnightly—in all, a membership of one hundred and forty women.

The Union was instrumental in organizing the University Extension Movement under the advocacy of the then president, Mrs. Clare. The succeeding president was Miss Mary E. Hirsch.

The meetings are annual and semi-annual, and there are always invited guests, which include some of the best known club-women in the State. The union belongs to the General Federation, and six of the individual clubs to the New Jersey State federation.

The programmes for the Union meetings are bright, suggestive, and not too formal, and the reunions are anticipated as among the most attractive events of the club year.

The Improvement Society, of the Oranges, originated with twenty women, who assembled in the parlor of one of their num-

ber to consider the problem of a society for the better municipal housekeeping of the towns which form the group of the Oranges.

A constitution was adopted, constructed upon a broad basis but simple in its provisions. The membership fee was placed at one dollar, and by October, 1894, its rapidly increasing membership had been divided into working committees upon public schools, streets, sanitation, prevention of cruelty



to children, prevention of cruelty to animals, art, railroads and stations, public library, almsgiving, children's auxiliary, preservation of the beauty of the Oranges, industrial home, and finance.

The work of the committees received the energetic support of the business men and the coöperative aid of many of the public officers.

An advisory board, composed of women, was elected in 1894 as an auxiliary to the town board of education.

The committee on prevention of cruelty to children is regularly established as a branch of the Newark society, and works under their laws and in conjunction with them. The prevention of cruelty to animals committee is an independent society in itself, with Miss Emma Lindsley, president; Mrs. Amos C. Van Gaasbeek, vice-president; Miss Caro D. Gallison, secretary; Mrs. J. J. McCoy, treasurer. Men are admitted as active members in this work. The children's auxiliary strive toward training the rising generation in the fundamental principles of good citizenship. The children assist in the work of almost every department.

The committee on the preservation of the beauty of the Oranges works to make the park and various triangles brilliant with foliage plants and shrubbery, and also to prevent the wanton destruction of trees and other natural beauties.

The meetings are held monthly, when reports from each committee are submitted, and plans for future work decided upon.

The officers of the society consist of: President, Mrs. L. D. Gallison; vice-president, Mrs. W. H. Dyckman; recording secretary, Mrs. S. A. Condict; corresponding secretary, Miss A. Ward; treasurer, Mrs. E. L. Kellogg. These officers, with the chairmen of committees, form the Governing Board of the society.

Women's Clubs in New Mexico

Women's Board of Trade, Santa Fé.—In the year 1892 the Woman's Santa Fé County Committee for the World's Fair constructed for its "Special Exhibit" a filigree table made entirely of Santa Fé gold, silver, copper, and precious stones. This was to be displayed in the Woman's Building of the Chicago Exposition, and then to be sold, the proceeds to go toward the founding of a Free Public Library for the old city of Santa Fé.

After the labors of the committee were concluded, one of the members, Mrs. Cora L. Bartlett, conceived the idea of an organized body of women that should pursue a systematized plan of work for the good of the town. An informal organization was effected, and the first thing done was the giving of an entertainment for the benefit of a school for deaf mutes, a territorial institution which possessed no library. The result was a fund which was employed to form the nucleus of a much needed collection of books. As yet the new organization had no name, and no benevolent or mere nomenclature seemed to fit it. Many lines of work were projected: industrial, financial, and literary. Finally, Woman's Board of Trade and Library Association was decided upon as covering the ground, and Mrs. C. L. Bartlett was unanimously chosen president. Constitution and by-laws were adopted, and different departments instituted. These are now nine in number: finance, library, visiting and relief, intelligence, improvement, industrial house and repair, woman's exchange, prevention of cruelty to animals, reception.

The first city improvement was made in the park or "plaza," as it is locally called. For years this spot had been sown to alfalfa. Bare wooden benches were scattered intermittently upon the sides of the walks, and a "graveyard" fence enclosed it. It was badly sunken in the centre, and ill-kept, though it cost the town from three to five hundred dollars per annum to care for it. A sensible city council turned this plaza over to the Woman's Board for repairs, and appropriated five hundred dollars for that purpose. This was an opportunity. Pipes were laid for a fine water service. Miles of earth were hauled for filling in. Alfalfa was uprooted. A beautiful and substantial cut-stone coping was built, wire settees purchased, trees planted, and grass seed sown. The whole cost was very nearly twenty-six

hundred dollars, besides the contributions in labor. At the close of the year 1894 the board was free of indebtedness, principally through the efforts of the president, whose equal for public spirit and energy is hardly to be found.

The filigree table was not sold, as was hoped, but the public library grew, notwithstanding. Every day brought books which some had either begged or bought ; and by the latter part of the year 1895 the free library opened with five hundred volumes, a librarian, and a reading-room, which is opened every Wednesday and Saturday afternoons and evenings.

Occasionally a "Book" reception is given, when a book is the price of admission, and refreshments are served free.

The means of support are derived from entrance fees, one dollar ; from suppers, fairs, concerts, excursions in summer, and from the financial aid given by some of the departments. The Woman's Exchange, for example, has contributed quite a sum from the sale of eatables, and the putting up of luncheons, and the like.

The membership is unlimited. The regular meetings are upon the second and fourth Mondays of each month. The board is incorporated under the laws of the Territory, and business flows in upon it. It occupies a unique position, one that it has made for itself, that excites no ill feeling, and seems to fill many long-felt wants.

There are but two federated clubs of women in New Mexico: The Woman's Board of Trade and Library Association, and the Fifteen Club, both of Santa Fé.

There are one or two clubs in the southern part of the Territory, which will probably soon appear in the federated list.

The vice-president of the Woman's Board of Trade is Mrs. C. Gable ; recording secretary is Mrs. Ida Rivenburg ; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. T. Palin ; treasurer, Mrs. E. C. Weltner.

The Fifteen Club, of Santa Fé, was organized for study purposes in October, 1891. Its first work was devoted to Italy, Italian architecture, Italian painting, Italian sculpture, Italian literature, and the political and diplomatic history of Italy. Later, the interest became more local. Current events occupied an important place, and discussions were participated in by the whole club upon Indian affairs, Chinese exclusion, Hawaii, anarchists, the relations of England and France to China, the Cuban question, and other topics of general interest. In connection with these papers and discussions, there were reviews and descriptive readings from modern authors, recitations from the poets, and criticism at every meeting. The Topic Committee assigns the work to the members, and it is very much enjoyed.

It joined the General Federation in the first year of its existence, and has held itself in touch with all forms of educational progress.

New York

ALUMNÆ CLUBS

THE impetus given to organized life among women has been nowhere more strikingly exhibited than in the educational groups known as the Alumnæ of schools and colleges. The majority of them have been formed within the past twenty-five years, inspired by the loyalty to an *Alma Mater*, and the desire to perpetuate friendships and companionships begun during school life. These Associations need, above all others, the influences of co-operation and solidarity. With forces scattered, and for the most part unrelated, they need more than all others a center of unity; while to this center they bring ideals, and a specific training which are of inestimable value.

The New York State F  d  ration endeavored in the framing of its constitution to bring into relations with the club life this great educational interest; and many Alumn   Associations are found in its representative organizations. The work of these large bodies has been gradually assuming a very practical and many-sided character from those which, like the Alumn   of the New York Normal College, support kindergartens and college settlement houses, to the Vassar Students' Aid, which through its numerous branches furnishes an education to many a bright girl who could not otherwise obtain it.

The Emma Willard Association, though not the oldest, strikes its roots most deeply into the heart of the past; for Mrs. Emma Willard was the first teacher to make an appeal to the public and the Legislature on behalf of the higher education of women. In those days primary instruction was considered enough for the woman, and the first notes in her behalf dared not strike too high a tone lest they might ring out their own knell with the powers and the public.

The deeper undertone has, however, come down to us at the present time; and to-day the most honored of women date back to the schools founded by Emma Willard, Mary Lyon, and Mary Mortimer.

Mount Holyoke, for fifty-three years a seminary, and for the last nine years a college, has twenty-two Alumn   Associations in this and other lands. The New York Association, with a membership of two hundred, is the

largest of these, and aims to keep itself closely in touch with the interests of the college. It contributed a generous share of the two-hundred-thousand-dollar endowment fund, and completed also the thirty-thousand-dollar building fund of the Mary Brigham Hall, at South Hadley, Mass., the corner-stone of which was laid by the president of the New York Association, Mrs. Edwin Atwell.

One of the most successful Associations is the Wheaton Alumnæ of New York, which has many successful club features, and for a presiding officer, Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, which perhaps explains the brilliant, breezy character of the monthly literary programmes and annual festivities.

The Lasell Club is composed of the New York graduates of the old Lasell Seminary of Auburndale, Mass., and has so far been purely social. Its president is Mrs. Lee Phillips; its motto, "Ayez Layaulte;" and its colors, blue and gold.

The Associate Alumnæ of the Packer Collegiate Institute, of Brooklyn, was incorporated in April, 1890. Its object was the "strengthening of social ties among its graduates, and the promotion of any cause that would assist the higher education of women." Its standing committees represent a Students' Guild Fund, Conference, Reunion, Nominating, and Publishing Departments. The president is Mrs. D. C. McEwen, of Brooklyn.

The Alumnæ of Livingston Park Seminary, of Rochester, meet also to perpetuate school ties, and to supplement school work, especially along the line of social problems. To these women the discussions of the relations of labor and capital, the reciprocal duties of employer and employee, seem to be of more practical value than purely literary questions.

The Brevoort Alumnæ, of Brooklyn, aims to develop the social qualities of its members and does some charitable work.

The Brooklyn Heights Seminary Club, in the prominence it gives to philanthropy, has made an honorable name for itself in the City of Churches. The support and guidance of a free kindergarten has become its most important work, while its monthly meetings have discussed literary and current topics.

Loyalty to the interests of their *Alma Mater* characterize the graduates of Wells College, who also engage actively in kindergarten and settlement work as the most practical expression of the modern idea of education. Mrs. Grover Cleveland was a graduate of this school.

The Associate Alumnæ of the Normal College of the City of New York is now in the twenty-sixth year of its existence, although it was not incorporated until 1889. Its membership is about fifteen hundred women, with thirteen standing committees, and an executive body of seventy-five members. It carries on various lines of work, social and literary, though the aim of the majority is educational. Two of its committees have been concerned with

education on its civic side, and instrumental in securing the appointment of several of its members as inspectors of the public schools.

The important offices of Supervisor of Kindergartens and Supervisor of Physical Culture in the Public Schools are also filled by two of the Alumnæ.

The Committee on the Course of Study in the Public Schools, as one result of its labors, has presented a memoir to the Board of Education recommending a number of changes in the present curriculum.

The Shakespeare and Literature Committee yearly organize large classes under able leadership. Last year the course was on Modern Spanish Literature; this year it is on Browning's "Ring and the Book." As in other classes, membership is open to all women. The Natural Science Committee has a spring "Field Class" for the study of botany, and, under the auspices of the Alumnæ Science Committee, gives an annual "Wild Flower Show," at which about a hundred species of wild flowers are clearly labelled with both common and botanical names, and are arranged in their families, the orders following the arrangement given in Gray's "Manual." There is also a table of the ordinary cultivated shrubs and plants in bloom at that time. The last wild flower show was visited by over two thousand people, the most interested being the hundreds of public school children, who came in classes accompanied by their teachers. In addition to the classes just spoken of, there is one for the study of parliamentary law.

The Child Study Committee is interested in the psychological side of education, and has collected much valuable data relative to the workings of children's minds. They have many papers on such subjects as "children's fears," "anger," "dolls," "choice." The committee conducts several "round tables," for mothers and kindergartners, and also has monthly lectures or talks by well-known educators. As an outgrowth of the work of this committee, in the Alumnæ kindergarten each individual child has a special blank book to himself, that continuous records may be kept.

The "Alumnæ House" centralizes college settlement work in a neighborhood home, in a crowded corner of East Seventy-second Street. Here, a kindergarten is conducted, and other branches of regular settlement work. There are two residents and many outside workers, who take charge of a circulating library, mothers' meetings, sewing class, physical culture class, boys and girls' clubs, and entertainments of various kinds. A successful loan exhibition of paintings has been held at the house, and a very carefully selected collection of about fifty framed pictures has been put in circulation, to be conducted like the library, each picture being loaned for two weeks.

There is an Alumnæ Shakespeare and Literature Class, an Alumnæ Science Class, a "Round Table" for child study, and other departments of work, all led by members of the Alumnæ.

The association is not forgetful of *Alma Mater*, but has been instrumental in placing several valuable memorials within its walls, and last year presented to the college a well-chosen library of about five thousand volumes, which the *Alumnæ* started six or seven years ago. There is also a loan fund for the relief of needy students. The "social side" is provided for by the large semi-annual reunions and the informal monthly "at homes."

The work of the association is so varied, and its membership so large, that it has been found helpful to publish a little monthly, keeping the members in touch with everything going on. *The Alumnæ News* is now in its third year, and has proved a valuable centralizing and distributing force. The first editor was Dr. Elizabeth Jarrett. The present editor is Clara Byrnes.

The president of the Associate *Alumnæ* for several years was Mrs. Alice Rich Northrop, who was a most inspiring aid to the work of the association, and is still a most valuable coadjutor. Her successor could hardly have been better chosen than in the person of Dr. Requa. Mrs. Northrop has been very active from the beginning in the associated educational work of the New York State Federation, and most helpful in its organization.

The insignia of the Associate *Alumnæ* is the ivy leaf, and a charming *Alumnæ* song with this title is always sung at the half-yearly reunions. It was written by Helen Gray Cone, one of its members, and is set to the tune of "My Maryland."

Alumnæ Association of St. Mary's School, New York. The Protestant Sisterhood of St. Mary was founded February 2, 1865, by Harriet Starr Cannon, descended from a Huguenot family of rank. Harriet Starr Cannon and a sister were left orphans in infancy. They grew up under the care of an aunt, and later, one of them, Katherine, married, and went to California. Harriet, a brilliant and beautiful girl, was about to join her when news came of her death. The blow prostrated her; when she recovered she determined to consecrate her life to some good work. She made application and was enrolled in the Sisterhood of the Holy Communion, founded by Dr. William A. Muhlenberg, who founded St. Luke's Hospital, part of his original plan being that the sick should be nursed by women devoted to the work from religious motive. The sisterhood was dissolved in 1863, but four of the band, including Miss Cannon, were invited by Bishop Potter to take charge of the House of Mercy founded by Mrs. William Richmond as a reformatory for fallen women. They were desperately poor; the sum allowed to each from the common fund was eight cents per diem. The ideal of Harriet Cannon had been a religious community life, and the sanction of Bishop Potter was asked and obtained to make this little group the nucleus of a sisterhood consecrated to abstinence and helpful work.

It came into existence in 1865 with five members, who chose Harriet Cannon as their superior, with the title of "Mother."

Mother Harriet deemed the education of the young the most important function of faithful women.

A small house was rented in 1868, but the school increased so rapidly that in a very short time larger quarters were needed, and quite unexpectedly the means were offered for the purchase of a very desirable and spacious building, 8 East Forty-sixth Street.

In 1872 a country home at Peekskill, N. Y., was acquired, and became the "Mother" house, the house in Forty-sixth Street being then entirely devoted to school work.

The accomplished head of St. Mary's School was Sister Agnes until her death in 1886. Sister Agnes was a wonderful woman. Remarkable for perfect calmness, quietness, and steadfastness, her influence was absolute; even the most unruly were instantly won by her sweet smile and gentle "my dear."

Her love for books was so great that the pupils never offered her any other gift, until one Christmas when she begged them for a case to put them in. This became the nucleus of the library of the school. The Alumnæ Association was established in 1889. Its work has been the contribution of books to the library, studies of a literary and historic character by the literary department, the enlargement of the building fund—the present building once considered so spacious being now far too small for its constantly increasing work. Its graduates pass the entrance examinations for Barnard, Wellesley, and Vassar Colleges.

Other institutions founded and under the Sisters of St. Mary are: St. Mary's Hospital for Children, New York City, 1868; Trinity Hospital, 1871; St. Gabriel's School, Peekskill, 1872; St. Mary's School, Memphis, Tenn., 1873 (during the yellow fever, 1878, all the sisters there but one died of the plague); Kemper Hall, Kenosha, Wis., 1878; Trinity Mission House, 1880; New York City, Laura Franklin Hospital, 1886; Mission House, Chicago, Ill., 1887; St. Mary's on the Mountain, Sewanee, Tenn., 1888; Temporary Home for Children, Chicago, 1894.

The Alumnæ Association has for several years given courses of free lectures, literary and scientific, which have been largely attended; and most useful in their practical and delightfully instructive character.

The Alumnæ Association joined the New York State Federation in 1894, the only organization of its character and extent in the United States.

The Allegany County Federation of Woman's Clubs was organized in the spring of 1895. The initial step was taken by the Literary and Historical Society of Belmont, through the effort of its president, Mrs. Hamilton Ward, who was elected the presiding officer of the federate organization. A constitution was framed and adopted, which limited the organization to the county and placed it upon a broad, judicious, and useful basis. The work

from the beginning was in the interest of free libraries, and coöperation among the country clubs, with educational and literary as well as social aims.

Thirteen active clubs became members; the majority study clubs, doing literary work and cultivating the social side.

The direct object of the Federation, as stated in the constitution, was "to stimulate the formation of free libraries, and furnish intellectual aids and companionship to women who have no longer the inspiring atmosphere of the schools."

The officers of the County Federation, besides the president, were: Vice-president, Mrs. Frank B. Church, Wellsville; secretary, Mrs. C. H. Charles, Cuba; treasurer, Mrs. S. M. Norton, Friendship.

The first gathering of the clubs at Belmont was a vital one in the history of the small neighboring organizations. The meetings were held in the Free Library building, which had been erected by women, is sustained by women, and possesses all the quiet beauty and homelike influence that belong to such environment.



MRS. HAMILTON WARD,
Ex-President Allegany County Federation;
President Belmont Literary and Historical Society, New York

"Ward Hall," named in honor of Mrs. Hamilton Ward, was used as the auditorium, and the club-rooms for entertainment.

At the close of the exercises the federated clubs were entertained at a reception given by the Hostess Society of Belmont, and a cordial invitation extended from the Monday Club of Wellsville, Mrs. F. B. Church, president, to hold the first annual convention in that place. This, it was voted, should occur in the following autumn, October 13, 1895, and was really in the nature of a ratification by a larger number of clubs, and club women, of all that had been done at Belmont in the spring.

At this first annual meeting thirteen clubs were represented, and upward of fifty club women were present. During the session a fine programme of papers, discussions, and music



MRS. IDA K. CHURCH,
President Allegany County Federation;
Recording Secretary State Federation,
New York

was enjoyed by large audiences. Great anticipations of mutual benefit were expressed as the various clubs represented gave outlines of their history and plan of work. It was found that the women of Allegany County had discovered that "there are everywhere ambitions to be stimulated, narrow outlooks to be broadened, isolation to be relieved, and companionship to be offered," and that, with them, "life is not a having and a getting, but a being and a



WOMAN'S LIBRARY AND CLUB-HOUSE, BELMONT, N. Y.

doing." In the small county thirteen active organizations were reported and had become members. All these are essentially study clubs. History, literature, art, and current events are the lines worked upon by the Belfast Hawthorne Club, the Belmont Tourist Club, Bolivar Sorosis, Cuba Anonymous Club, Friendship Travellers' Club, the Andover Hawthorne Club, the Andover Lucy Stone Club, and the Wellsville Anthony Club, each studying American life in a political science course; the Belmont Literary and Historical Society, the Fillmore Wide-Awakes, and the Wellsville Monday Club pursuing a course in political and social economics or civics, while the latter also makes a study of the nations and of astronomy. Five clubs make special study of Shakespeare and his plays. Handsome year-books are published by ten different societies; these show that good work is being done in discussion and in the preparation of original papers which a well-planned Reciprocity Committee in the County

Federation aims to distribute throughout the county clubs, thereby stimulating higher literary attainment. Eligibility to membership in this Federation consists in one year's organization as a woman's club, and one year of literary work accomplished. The dues are one dollar.

From this auspicious beginning the history of the Allegany County Federation has been one of interest and success.

The work of the first meeting at Belmont was fully confirmed and all the officers reëlected. Acquaintance among the women of the neighborhood clubs increased, and they entered with a new enthusiasm into the work.

The Reciprocity Bureau became an important factor, and its report and plan of future work was most encouraging.

The second annual meeting was held by invitation of the Travellers' Club of Friendship, and was memorable from its attractive social and literary features.

The roll call of individual clubs developed a full gathering of delegates and many visiting club women from other localities. The brief yet comprehensive reports displayed a fine body of women, intelligent and rich in mental resources.

The exercises opened with a cordial welcome from Mrs. Norton on behalf of the Travellers' Club of Friendship, and a response by the president of the Federation, Mrs. Ward, of Belmont.

Mrs. Frank B. Church, of Wellsville, opened discussion with a fine paper upon "Club Study." Miss McBurney, the president of the Woman's Club of Bradford, Pa., made an address, and Mrs. Little, of Rochester, spoke upon the patriotic societies of women.

A fine paper on the "Federated Life of Clubs" was contributed by a member of the Travellers' Club, Mrs. Frank Leonard. The point she made of the variety of interest presented, yet each club being a law unto itself, still acknowledging one centre of unity, was fully appreciated by the delegates present.

The election resulted in placing Mrs. Hamilton Ward for the third time in the chair. Mrs. Frank B. Church, of Wellsville, and Mrs. Elizabeth G. Keeney, of Belvidere, were also reëlected first and second vice-presidents; Mrs. May L. R. Norton, of Friendship, was reëlected treasurer; Miss T. T. Chamberlain, of Belfast, was elected secretary, and Mrs. Charles Ricker, of Fillmore, assistant secretary.

The report of the Committee on Resolutions was given as follows:

"Whereas, We, women of Allegany County, in federation assembled, sincerely believing that intellectual culture should go hand in hand with spiritual development, and that the school life of a majority of women is far too short and that systematic reading and study is a duty that every woman owes to herself and her home; therefore, be it

"*Resolved*, That the chief work of our Federation be to encourage the organization of study clubs for women. As a means of promoting unity of thought and purpose among clubs we commend the Reciprocity Bureau.

"*Whereas*, The State of New York offers great opportunity for the dissemination of knowledge among its people by means of State aid to libraries, be it

"*Resolved*, That wherever practicable we aid and encourage the establishment and maintenance of a free public library."

The Travellers' Club entertained upward of one hundred women at luncheon, and decorated Academy Hall, where the meetings were held, most attractively. The occasion was, in fact, an epitome of a great biennial gathering, and afforded the only opportunity that many women possess of participating in federated work.

The fourth annual meeting was held in Belfast, October 23, 1897, by invitation of the Hawthorne Club. The day was ideal, and large numbers of delegates arrived at an early hour.

At 10 A. M. the president called the meeting to order. Reports and business, including that of the Credential Committee and of the election of officers, occupied the morning. The revised constitution does not admit of holding office more than two years in succession. The choice of a president was therefore necessary. As Mrs. Ward retired from the chair she was presented with a mass of beautiful carnations and ferns tied with the colors of the Hawthorne Club, purple and gold. It is always with a feeling of sadness that any society or organization gives up an honored presiding officer. This occasion was no exception to the rule, as Mrs. Ward had been a faithful officer, giving her time, talents, and money freely, and always presiding with a quiet dignity which won the regard of all. She was made honorary president.

The choice of the delegates for her successor fell upon Mrs. Church, a woman well known all over Allegany County, and who has the respect and confidence of the Federation. Mrs. Ward appointed her as her successor also as head of the Reciprocity Bureau.

The guest of honor on the occasion was Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, of New York, former president of Sorosis and vice-president of the State Federation, now its president.

Mrs. Helmuth gave a paper on "A Search for Health."

The open discussion upon "Best Methods of Club and Library Work" was led by Mrs. Ricker, of Fillmore. Some helpful ideas were brought out, among them that the course of study which a club pursues is by no means its chief object, but to teach women how to think intelligently.

The reports of the varied clubs all showed an increased interest in the work, and Fillmore and Bolivar each reported over \$225 raised for a free public library, and Andover reported a start in that direction.

Miss Mary Crowley, of the Wide-Awake Club, gave an account of the success in library work at Fillmore.

Mrs. Helen St. Clair Noble, being in the audience, was invited to give a selection from Dickens, and she read from "Oliver Twist."

A very helpful paper was contributed by Mrs. Rufus Eldridge, of Cuba.

There were numerous visitors from outside organizations present, among them Mrs. Dr. Vincent, of Hinsdale; Mrs. Lathrop, of Pike; Mrs. Eugene Helmer, of Salamanca, and others.

Cuba was chosen as the place of the annual meeting in 1898.

The present list of officers is: President, Mrs. Frank B. Church, of Wells-ville; first vice-president, Mrs. S. M. Norton, of Friendship; second vice-president, Miss Susie Jennings, of Belfast; treasurer, Mrs. A. B. Burrows, of Andover; recording secretary, Mrs. Charles Ricker; corresponding secretary, Miss Mae Lundrigan, of Rushford.

Every one recognizes the fact that the Woman's Club is a strong power widely felt, and that in Allegany County it is doing more each year for the advancement of womanhood and to build up the things which make life truly great.

Belmont Literary and Historical Society was founded in 1885 at the home of Mrs. I. P. Trautman, Mrs. J. H. Purcell being its first president. Its object

was "the intellectual improvement of its members and the formation and maintenance of a public library." During the first winter of its existence its special aim was begun in a small way—so small that the entire library was carried to and from its place of housing, the village engine house, in a market basket, by the faithful librarian, Miss Della



LIBRARY OF BELMONT FREE PUBLIC LIBRARY, OWNED AND MANAGED BY BELMONT LITERARY AND HISTORICAL SOCIETY, NEW YORK

Noble, now Mrs. Lester Bellamy. Two years later its first catalogue was issued, and in 1888 the society was incorporated, its certificate of incorporation being the gift of the club's president that year, Mrs. Frank Van Campen.

For three or four years progress was slow. In 1892 the needed impetus was given by Mrs. Hamilton Ward, a devoted worker in the society's interests, and a member of the first Board of Directors. Mrs. Ward presented a site for the building, a valuable lot in the heart of the village, and contributed \$1,000 toward the erection fund. With this substantial encouragement the building was begun, though it was not completed until the following year. Since 1894, however, the Belmont Free Library and Reading Room has been an established fact, and the Woman's Literary and Historical Society has found its own well-appointed home within the building.

The structure is of brick, fireproof, fitted with electricity and all modern improvements, and contains reading-rooms, library-rooms, dining-room, kitchen, dressing-rooms, etc. The large assembly room, with stage, curtains, etc., has been appropriately named Ward Hall, in honor of Mrs. Ward. The society maintains a course of free lectures in this hall each year, and through its library reaches constantly six hundred readers. It will be seen how valuable this work must be in a community not very near any large city. The society belongs to the State University, and is allowed \$200 each year for books, which sum is du-



ROOM IN BELMONT LIBRARY BUILDING, WHERE BELMONT LITERARY CLUB HOLDS SESSIONS

plicated annually by this energetic and persevering woman's club. The ladies offer the hospitality of their building to the Allegany Historical Society for their meetings, and house for them their collection of relics.

The entire ownership and control of the whole enterprise is vested in the Literary Society, through a board of five trustees selected from its membership, and is probably the only woman's club in the State which does own and manage exclusively a free public library. So well are the financial affairs conducted that the ladies have an appreciable income each year over and in excess of their expenses. Much of this comes from rentals of the building for various public and private entertainments.

Mrs. Ward has been president of the Historical Club for six years, and is

well known for her active and efficient club and library work throughout the State. She is also regent of the Belmont Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution.

Present officers of the Belmont Literary and Historical Society are, besides Mrs. Ward, president: First vice-president, Mrs. H. H. Sortore; second vice-president, Mrs. H. A. Barney; recording secretary, Miss Florence Holden; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. H. Bissell; treasurer, Mrs. M. E. Davis; librarian, Miss Ella Sortore; assistant librarian, Mrs. H. N. Mattoni; trustees, Mrs. Frank Van Campen, Mrs. M. E. Davis, Mrs. J. H. Bissell, Mrs. E. I. Davis, Mrs. Charles Gorton. Mrs. Gorton was the original first vice-president.

The literary work is largely historical and of a high order. That of the present year has been national in character, with studies of literary personages and current events as part of the programmes. "The Origin of Taxation," "Taxation and Government," "To What Extent Taxation Caused American Revolution," "Functions of Local Government," "Boroughs and Cities," "The Problem of the City," "Early State Government," "Executive Power in Provincial Government," "The Magna Charta," "The Development of the Constitution in the United States," are among the topics which have received thoughtful attention through papers and discussion.



The Brooklyn Woman's Club began with a preliminary meeting held at the residence of Mrs. Anna C. Field, in February, 1869. Of this meeting there is no record; it was the result, however, of an unpremeditated conversation between three ladies—Mrs. Field, Mrs. Celia Burleigh, and Miss Katherine Hillard. It was not until June 18th of the same year that a second meeting took place—also at Mrs. Field's house—at which a secretary was appointed and a record made. On this occasion there were ten ladies present—Mrs. Celia Burleigh (then corresponding secretary of Sorosis), Mrs. Jenks, Mrs. L. C. Bullard (also an officer in Sorosis), Mrs. Brockway, Mrs. Charlotte Lozier, Mrs. Newbould, Mrs. Field, Mrs. Bowen, Mrs. Wilson, and Miss Kellogg.

At this June meeting the name of "Social Science" Club was adopted, a constitution formed, and Mrs. Burleigh elected president.

In January, 1870, the name was changed to Brooklyn Woman's Club, and work began in earnest. The object, as stated in the constitution, was "the improvement of its members, and the practical consideration of the important questions that grow out of the relation of the individual to society and the effect of existing institutions upon individual development. It was to be independent of sect, party, and social cliques—the basis of membership being earnestness of purpose, love of truth, and a desire to promote the best interests of humanity."

The early work of the club inspired by Mrs. Field was largely directed toward founding a home for self-supporting women. This was effected in Willoughby Street, where, also, the club had its rooms. The enterprise finally resolved itself into the Business Woman's Union, formed its own Board of Directors, and became an independent body. Small and conservative in its beginnings, though with a strongly progressive element, the Brooklyn Woman's Club gradually enlarged its membership, organized it into committees, and, under an inspiring president—Mrs. Brockway, who succeeded Mrs. Burleigh upon her removal—became a power in the social, intellectual, and philanthropic life of Brooklyn.

The club made an early investigation of existing laws as they related to women in the State of New York, and out of this investigation grew others, into the prisons and reformatory systems, their conditions and their needs.

The standing committees represented Literature, Music, Art, Science, Philanthropy, Home, and Education. Current Topics was added later.

Under the auspices of the Education Committee free kindergartens were established in Brooklyn, and the kindergarten idea took root until it blossomed into the Froebel Academy. The literary work has always been active and stimulating. Russia and Russian institutions, Scotch character, and national music were among the early topics. There were also studies of historic and social conditions by periods, and incidental report of the new things in art and books. Among the special subjects still remembered were a delightful Italian journey; a study of Venetian and other glass, giving an interest to all glass; a study of botany; a comparative study of human temperaments—of traits to be most cultivated in the home, of philanthropic work in its broad sense, of "stumbling-blocks to culture," and needed educational reforms.

These and other suggestive subjects were thoughtfully treated under the auspices of the Literary Committee.

In the meantime, while reaching its limit of 150 membership, and acquiring a waiting list, it was true to its original idea of independence of sects and cliques, and "cultivation of character and love of truth" as essential qualifications.

The desire for seclusion has been largely removed with the growth of public interests and the pressure of semi-public responsibilities upon all women. Naturally the members of the Woman's Club have entered largely into the formation of other organizations; and the "sense of duty," strong in women's clubs as in women, compels participation in the active life of the time.

The Brooklyn Woman's Club was represented at the first convention of clubs in New York, and promoted the work in laying the foundation of the General Federation.

It was from the beginning allied with the State Federation, and its presi-

dent, Mrs. H. H. Backus, was the chairman of the Committee upon the Constitution, and furnished the general subject for discussion at the annual meeting, which was held in Brooklyn at the invitation of the Brooklyn women's clubs.

One of the members of the Brooklyn Woman's Club was upon the first Board of Direction, in 1889, of the General Federation, and was afterward chairman of State Correspondence for New York. Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, though her duties were interrupted by ill-health, will always be remembered for her wise counsel and broad view of club life and work.

The outcome of the Brooklyn Woman's Club is well summarized by one of its members as "having given to life a new aspect, turning what had been wearisome toil into joyful service, opening up a world of never-ending delight, and changing the vague, half-hearted house-mother into the rounded, intelligent woman in harmony with the thought of her time. Women who are carrying on the philanthropic movements talk of the *best* methods, not the *easiest*, and have learned to discriminate between what fosters pauperism and that which helps true welfare. Through the club the members take larger and more comprehensive views of every subject they treat. They have learned to put their thought into shape, to express their ideas, and, meeting women on the higher plane of their being, have learned to respect women. Looking at it in this large way, and believing that he who makes the most of himself, in the best sense, does the best service to others, the work of the Woman's Club takes high rank indeed. It stands for motives, principles, and incentives."

The Brooklyn Woman's Club has been fortunate in its leaders—Mrs. Brockway, for many years its president, has always been an inspiring influence. Mrs. Amelia K. Wing; Miss Katherine Hillard, a woman of fine literary culture, also at one time corresponding secretary of Sorosis, now the president of the Wednesday Morning Club of New York; Mrs. H. H. Backus, president of the National Vassar Alumnae Association, twice the president of the Brooklyn Woman's Club; and Mrs. M. C. Chapman, a wise and able leader, have all been among the presiding officers.

Its anniversaries are among the landmarks of the social year. They are always the scene of an abundant and graceful hospitality, signalized at times by invitations extended to every other woman's organization in the city, and to many in New York.

Its twenty-fifth anniversary was signalized by the publication of a "silver" year-book, bound in fine laurel green cloth, with silver lettering. It contained twenty-seven stories, sketches, essays, and poems by members of the club, all of which had been published, and were obtained by permission of various periodicals. Among them were contributions from Celia Burleigh, the first president, Helen Hiscock Backus, Katherine Hillard, Emily E. F. Ford, Olive Thorne Miller, Alice Morse Earle, Caroline E. Prentiss, and others as well

known to the public. Altogether it was a volume to be proud of, with a value for the public, as well as for the club, far beyond the usual memorial work.

The Brooklyn Woman's Club was never more prosperous than now, and in its well-rounded life and steady growth may be considered a model of healthy, useful, not too rapid life—a life that leads in clubs or individuals to serene and happy age. The president, 1898, is Mrs. H. H. Backus; the membership, 199 women.

Brooklyn Association of Working Girls' Clubs.—This association was organized in November, 1888, and is a federation of clubs composed of representatives from nine clubs, and its object is to strengthen and to unite in a bond of common interest the various societies whose aims are the improvement of social, intellectual, and industrial condition of working women, and to obtain for them benefits through coöperation and collective effort which the societies could not obtain singly and unaided; to promote a spirit of good-fellowship among societies whose work is identical, although they may differ in scope, method, or form of government. Monthly meetings are held from October to June, where reports are read of the work of individual clubs, and questions of mutual benefit discussed. Once during the year an entertainment is given, to which all the clubs are invited, and to which, in some instances, members of the club have contributed. The most absorbing interest of the association is the Downing Vacation House, situated at Locust Valley, L. I., which is a gift from the late Benjamin F. Downing to the working girls of Brooklyn. This house was formally opened May 30, 1890, and during the first five years of its existence 1,350 girls have been entertained. Through the efforts of its president, Mrs. W. C. Peckham, and officers, the association is out of debt and does an admirable work.



VACATION HOUSE WORKING GIRLS' CLUBS, BROOKLYN, N. Y.

Cambridge Club, of Brooklyn, was the thought, in 1890, of Miss Julia A. Kempshall, a member of the Brooklyn Woman's Club and sister of Mrs. A. K. Wing, first chairman of State Correspondence for New York for the General Federation.

The Cambridge is a literary club of high character. It has found its studies in many little known places, in India, Africa, and the isles of the sea. It lingers where it goes and makes acquaintance with peculiar people and strange customs. It finds problems in their social life, religion, philoso-

phy, and life, and makes a comparative study of them. It is very appreciative of ideas clothed in good form, so that women who have a good thing like to take it to the Cambridge Club.



JULIA ARNOLD KEMPSHALL,
President Prospect Club, of Brooklyn, N. Y.

The membership limit is fifty, with an impatient waiting list, whose complaint is that the members of Cambridge never die or resign. Its president is Mrs. G. H. Pillsbury; its corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. Nichols. The Cambridge has a delightful way of crowning its year's work by a gathering, to which the most distinguished are glad to lend their presence. The souvenirs suggest the work of the year; and on one occasion were miniature globes upon standards, tied with the red rose of the club.

This indicated the difference, as a club guest (Mrs. William Tod Helmuth) remarked, between women's clubs and other people. They want the earth—the clubs give it, and the fullness thereof.

The Cambridge is proud of a young and brilliant daughter of the same name in the Bermudas.

The Colonia Club, of Brooklyn, originated in 1892 with two members of the Woman's Club, who felt that a "more active intellectual stimulus would be found in a smaller club." It was organized on the 12th of February of that year, with five standing committees, and a membership limit of forty, increased at once to fifty. The committees represent Music and Art, Literature and Education, Science and Current Topics, Home and Social Relations, Government and History—all members being expected to join one of these committees and render some kind of service.

The committee work has been interesting and profitable, largely devoted to educational and scientific topics, and problems of the time through papers and discussions.

The Anniversaries are very successful. They are held in the evening, and the presidents of neighboring clubs are often invited, as well as the husbands and escorts of members. A paper on some live topic is read, and informal discussion follows, closing with refreshments.

Two other luncheons are given by the club during the year, though its dues are only three dollars per year. But it meets at the homes of members, and therefore pays no rent. It is a distinct object to obliterate as far as possible that financial side which is becoming onerous in many women's clubs.

The president of Colonia is Mrs. Sarah E. Estes, who devotes herself to its interests. The secretary is Mrs. Teresa M. Avery.

The Portia Reading Club, of Brooklyn, is unique among other study clubs in having spent a whole winter in the study of *one* book. A series of questions was prepared by two members upon the subject of the book, and steadily increasing interest was maintained. The special work done is worthy of comment. Unity of taste and interest are essential to such a success, and a desire for thorough critical work must be a prominent motive in this club.

Prospect Club, of the borough of Brooklyn, was founded April 10, 1897, and was the outcome of Miss Kempshall's Drawing-room Talks on Art during the previous winter.

The membership consists mainly of residents of Prospect Heights, is limited to fifty, and has at present thirty-eight.

The object of the club is the intellectual and social development of its members by the presentation and discussion of topics of united interest.

The club holds its meetings on the fourth Tuesday of each month, from October 26th to April 26th, from 2.30 to 4.30.

The topics selected for the first year's work are Edinburgh, London, Paris, Antwerp and Brussels, the Rhine and Switzerland, Heidelberg, Munich, and Berlin.

Prospect Club is a member of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs.

The present officers are: President, Miss J. A. Kempshall; vice-president, Miss J. L. Ryckman; recording secretary, Mrs. G. B. Bretz; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. E. Donnellson; treasurer, Mrs. E. B. Griswold.

Miss Kempshall is prominently identified with club movements. She founded the Cambridge Club, of Brooklyn, in 1890, which has a membership of fifty and always a waiting list. Of the Cambridge Miss Kempshall was first president and served two terms.

The Bermuda Century Club was founded by Miss Kempshall in 1896, has a membership of fifty, and is a very flourishing club. It was the outcome of a visit Miss Kempshall paid to those beautiful islands, and was Bermuda's first woman's club.

Miss Kempshall is ex-president of Ingham University Alumnae Association, a club of over one hundred members.

C. E. D.

Civitas Club, of Brooklyn, is a club of young women that has done important civic work. It was organized in November, 1893, and took up a line of reading and study bearing upon the life of the city and matters of public interest.

At one of the meetings Miss M. J. Worden, one of the members of the Civitas, suggested the desirability of engaging in some practical work, and

described the condition of the imbecile children in the Kings County Hospital at Flatbush. In a children's department of this hospital from fifty to seventy-five children in various stages of incapacity are "*Pro bona civitate.*" housed. The whole department was described as more like a den of wild animals than human creatures; the brighter little ones put in with the hopeless cases, exposed to danger, and with distressing, uncleanly surroundings.

Investigation proved the truth of this report. A committee was formed, and a practical proposition of help in the work of caring for and educating these helpless children put before the County Board. The proffered aid was gladly accepted.

An old building used as a storehouse near the hospital was put in order by the commissioners. The Board of Education contributed desks and a couple of dozen school-books, and the Civitas Club provided the outfit for kindergarten work. Miss C. O. Chadwick, a teacher from the large school for feeble-minded children at Elwyn, Pa., was secured, and the work began. The children at the Flatbush Hospital represented the very lowest order of their kind. They are, many of them, the children of paupers or of the poorest people, and are so helpless that the parents are obliged to send them away. They are all "children" in the little world of the feeble-minded, though they range in age from seven to twenty-eight and thirty.

Eighteen of the brightest of them were taken to the school for experiment, and a great improvement was soon manifest. The work went on, and soon became indispensable.

Possibilities in the children were discovered. Small trades were introduced. Some of the older pupils became partly self-supporting. The expenses are still partially sustained by the Civitas Club. The commissioners provide \$18 a month, and the club makes up all deficiencies at an expense of about \$800 a year. The members have agreed to do this for a specified time; after that it is thought that it may become the work of the city.

The Civitas has a membership of two hundred, and a waiting list. It is a member of both State and General Federations. The president of the club (1897) is Miss E. S. Doughty, the corresponding secretary Miss Maude Huttman. The motto is "*Pro bona civitate.*"

"**Chiropean**," of Brooklyn, was founded in 1895 by Mrs. Alvah G. Brown, an early member of Sorosis and the Brooklyn Woman's Club, and many times an officer in both organizations. The East Side of Brooklyn wanted a club; it wanted a large club, many-sided and up-to-date.

Some of the women who wished to form such a club invited Mrs. Brown to meet with them and outline a plan. She explained to them the woman's club idea—the bringing together women of different tastes, opinions, ideas,

and habits, on the simple basis of their common womanhood, and finding the points of agreement instead of the points of difference. A large club was the result, its organization representing all the usual officers, with Mrs. Brown as the president, and seven standing committees. The meetings were arranged for the second and fourth Thursdays in every month; the first for social and literary purposes, the second for business conducted in a strictly parliamentary manner. Each of the standing committees has a "Social Day" in charge, and every member is expected to unite with one or more of the committees. The Committee on Municipal Affairs works in connection with the Brooklyn Health Protective Association, and there is a Mother Committee which has begun a systematic and scientific study of childhood and child-nature.

The Chiropean started with a membership of two hundred and fifty active and enthusiastic women, a membership since largely increased. Its meetings have been held in the drawing-rooms of the Knapp Mansion, and a club hostess acts as the chairman of a Reception Committee, giving a delightfully homelike air to the gatherings composed of many socially distinguished women.

Among the first questions discussed were, "How Can We Help the Poor without Pauperizing Them?" and "How to Control and Improve the Quality of the Literature which Reaches our Children." The Chiropean is considering now the question of a club-house of its own, and this will doubtless be accomplished in the near future.

Columbian Club, of Groton, is a study club which had the honor of giving a corresponding secretary to the State Federation at Buffalo, in 1896. It was founded in 1892, and has twenty active and six honorary members. Twenty-two regular meetings are held during the year, and one or more social gatherings to which gentlemen are invited. A course of lectures upon botany was highly appreciated, and an "Evening with Mendelssohn" displayed the musical talent of the members. The studies have included ancient history, Eastern countries, and botany, with current topics as part of the work of every meeting.

The subject for 1897 was "Greece," and it was preceded by a "Græco-American Festival." The games in which sons, husbands, and brothers took part were foot-races, throwing the discus, hurling the javelin, etc. Archery and croquet were substituted for leaping and wrestling; the successful contestants were crowned with laurel and a banquet given in honor of the victors. The beautiful lawn of one of the members served as a stadium, and the home was a prytaneum for the banquet. The bread and cake were passed in baskets *a la Grecque*, and the flowers and vines were profuse enough for the sunny land of Greece.

A library of one hundred volumes is loaned from the State, and is a great assistance in special work.

The president for 1897 is Mrs. E. A. Landam. The club was organized in February, 1892, and federated November, 1894.

Catherine Lorillard Wolfe Art Students' Club, of New York, was organized in November, 1896, at the suggestion of Mrs. W. W. Newell, who founded such a club in Paris, and for the same object: To make a social and mutually improving center for the girl students of the city. The name was given in honor of the founder of "Grace House," the second floor of which was appropriated to the use of the organization. It was furnished and made

very cozy and homelike. The drawing-room is supplied with a piano, the library and reading-room with upward of a thousand volumes, and abundant stationery. The club-rooms are open daily, and also on Sunday afternoon, when Mrs. Newell presides at the tea table. Tea is a feature every day from four to six. The management is in charge of a committee of ladies, two of whom are always present. The financial responsibility of the student members is limited to an annual fee of one dollar. Regular students of music, painting, sculpture, and architecture are welcomed as members, and information is furnished in regard to art schools and their requirements. The club supplies a long-felt want. There are annual gatherings at Thanksgiving and Christmas, and all the homelike influence possible is centered in the Art Students' Club.



EMMA WILLARD,
Pioneer Teacher New York State

The first members of the committee in addition to Mrs. Newell, were, Mrs. Roland Redmond, Miss Knapp, Miss Mitchell, Miss Huntington, Miss Livingstone, Miss Mary Hoffman, Miss Trevor, and Miss Slade.

The Emma Willard Association, of Troy Female Seminary, was organized May 5, 1891, and was incorporated February 2, 1892, having as its object "to honor the name and perpetuate the memory of Mrs. Emma Willard; to unite the graduates of the Troy Female Seminary in a friendly alliance and to coöperate in promoting the cause of higher education among women." The originator of the movement was Mrs. Leon Harvier, but it found an active and zealous promoter in Mrs. Russell Sage of the class of 1847, who was made, and has remained from the beginning, the president.

The first effort in any direction was the raising of two thousand dollars to found a scholarship for girls in Middlebury College, a memorial to Mrs. Emma Willard, who had a girls' school in Middlebury in 1816, and in 1819 published there her "Plea for the Higher Education of Women." Mrs. Willard moved

from Middlebury to Waterford, N. Y., but her stay there was very brief, as Troy invited her with enlarged facilities, and hers was the first institution for the education of women that was incorporated in the United States, and perhaps the first in the world.

The Emma Willard Association has now upward of seven hundred members, and the record of them is most interesting, including many historic names and others that have become known in connection with later educational work. The very first name on the list is that of Mary Newbury Adams, now of Dubuque, Iowa, class of 1857. Maria Tredwell entered Mrs. Willard's first school in Middlebury; is recorded as having passed an exhaustive examination in mental and moral science, afterward taking high rank as one of the foremost teachers in her time.

Mrs. Sage has devoted herself to the interests of the association, and, together with her husband, added "Sage Hall" to the fine equipment of Troy Female Seminary.

The annual meetings of the association take place in December, but there are others throughout the year which are sometimes educational and others in the nature of social reunions.

During 1896 a course of lectures on parliamentary law was given by Mrs. Ellen Hardin Walworth, and talks and papers have been given by Miss Emily James Smith, dean of Barnard College; Miss Mary Alice Knox, principal of the Emma Willard School; and Mrs. Blanche W. Bellamy.

The association participated in the reception given in honor of the birthday of its oldest member, Mrs. Elizabeth Cady Stanton, and has also been represented at the conventions of the State Federation, of which it was a charter member. At the midsummer meeting of the State Federation, at Saratoga, in 1896, one of the most attractive features of the programme was the address, without notes, of Mrs. Russell Sage upon the work and character of Mrs. Emma Willard.

The association has added to its standing committees, and has taken on much local club work under its faithful and energetic president.

Ethical Club, of Rochester, was started on the lines of the New York League of Unitarian Women in the autumn of 1889. Its inception was due



MRS. RUSSELL SAGE,
President Emma Willard Association, New York

to the wife of the pastor of the Rochester Unitarian Church, Rev. W. C. Gannett, who had recently become resident in that city.

The first regular meeting was held December 20, 1889, in the chapel of the Unitarian church, a constitution adopted, and officers elected, Mrs. Gannett becoming the first president.

As the constitution states, the "objects of the club are the discussion of questions in ethics and philanthropy of practical interest to women, and the cultivation of a spirit of liberality and coöperation among members of the various churches."

The programme for the first year was that used by the New York Society the year previous, and the first paper read, "Proportion in Life," written by Miss Kate Hillard, and given before the New York League in the autumn of 1889.

After the first year the programmes were prepared by a committee appointed from the Board of Directors by the president.

The first three meetings were held in the chapels of the Unitarian, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches, the fourth in the large hall of the Jewish Club-House. After this the attendance became so large the meetings have been held in the audience room of the church extending its hospitality, and, like charity, this hospitality has been a blessing to giver and recipient. Eighteen different churches, representing eight denominations, have opened their doors most cordially for the meetings of the club. The average attendance is about five hundred, the largest one thousand, the membership about four hundred.

For the first two years those who chose brought a box luncheon, of which they partook before the meeting, ladies from the entertaining church serving coffee and chocolate, but the number grew so small the plan was abandoned. During the past year the Executive Committee served tea and wafers at the close of the first and last meetings. There is always so much to talk about *after* the meeting this seemed a thoroughly enjoyable innovation.

It is an unwritten law of the society that only papers expressly prepared for it shall be read before the club, and by tacit consent questions touching creed and politics are avoided. And yet one of the most noteworthy meetings of the club was a largely attended gathering at the Jewish Club-House, when a paper on "Personal Religion" was read by a woman unconnected with any church. Women of all shades of belief and unbelief were present, yet so delicately and reverently was the subject handled neither extreme liberal nor ultra-orthodox felt otherwise than benefited by the meeting.

The Ethical Club has been an education to the women of Rochester. To its leaders it has been a source of development, and, as no officer is eligible for consecutive reelection, it has been a training school for a large number, many

of the brightest women of Rochester having served upon its Executive Committee—Mrs. O'Connor, Mrs. Kinchling, Mrs. Hooker, and Mrs. Willard, of revered memory, being among its presidents.

Fortnightly Ignorance Club, of Rochester, was started in the eighties—precise date not ascertained. It claimed to be the simplest organization in the world, therefore kept few records and allowed nothing to get into print. Its name was suggested by a contributor to the *Atlantic Monthly*, who urged that every house should have its Ignorance Book, wherein should be written the hard-to-answer, the book to be produced as an antidote for dull evenings and duller guests. That thought was the germ of the Ignorance Club—fifty women or more should keep an Ignorance Book in common, square the account semi-monthly, ask questions. What a comfort to have a place provided where ignorance would be bliss; where one would be happier in telling what one did not know than what one did!

It acquired its membership of fifty women very soon, and held its semi-monthly meetings in the pleasant law office of one of them.

Upon its roll of membership were teachers, writers, editors, one manager of a large machinists' tool factory, who was a graduate of Cornell University, and eight women physicians. Naturally they furnished the first topic for discussion—"Is Vivisection in the Interest of Humanity and Science?"

As stated by a member, "at every meeting the Ignorance Book is opened at nine o'clock—that is, slips of paper are distributed, and questions are written, which are answered at once, or given to some one to answer at the next meeting. Recitations enliven things, and a Pronunciation Committee whips in offenders. We adjourn a little after ten, and each member goes home comforted in the consciousness that she is watching the world with fifty pairs of eyes, and that there is little that can happen in literature, politics, theology, etc., that some of the 'F. I. C.'s' will not 'bag' for the common feast in club. As long as our ignorance holds out, and is replenished by new members, the lamp of our club will burn. Any five women on a country crossroad can have an ignorance club like ours if they will, and let us assure them it will prove an unfailing source of improvement and entertainment."

Froebel Society, of Brooklyn, was organized in April, 1884. It was the outcome of the desire of the mothers of the children who attended the Froebel Academy, founded in 1883, so to understand the principles of education that the home life and school life might become supplementary to each other and parts of one scheme. None of the members were so restricted in their lives as to require the club life for general culture or social environment. The work had therefore a clear and definite purpose, and it has held to that purpose logically and profitably.

The membership of the society is about ninety. It holds its regular meet-

ings on the first Monday of each month, from October to June inclusive. It holds also business meetings at stated times; three evening sociables, with music and addresses, and an annual reunion in June, with supper, music, toasts, etc. In February, 1894, it was decided to have an open night. From that time the kindergarten was open every Monday evening during the club year, two members taking charge each evening. To the sociables, club nights, and reunion the husbands of the members and other friends are invited. Indeed, in view of the sympathy of these gentlemen with the aims of the association and their substantial encouragement through all the years since its foundation, it cannot be doubted that it has taken a long step toward the ideal club life in which both sexes may meet upon the equal grounds of social pleasure with an undertone of high purpose.

In April, 1891, the Froebel Society formally joined the Federation of Women's Clubs.

The history of the society has been simple and uneventful, but its influence among its members unspeakable. Every woman has felt the blessedness of an insight into the finer feelings and higher aspirations of the homes of her children's companions. Thus the work has had the push of individual character and experience. It has drawn its life from the heart of each home, and has been so far uplifting and outreaching that the strongest hope is felt for definite future progress.

The work of the association has been in such a sense connected with that of the Froebel Academy that a sketch of the progress of that institution is necessarily part of its history. The Froebel Academy was incorporated in June, 1883, and formally opened in September, 1883. Its object was to institute a system of education which should carry Froebel's principles through every grade. This idea has developed more completely than its most ardent advocates dared hope for in the beginning. The school has grown to embrace two kindergarten, four primary, and four academic grades.

In June, 1891, it passed under the control of the Pratt Institute. In June, 1893, it reverted to its former management, with a Board of Trustees elected from the patrons of the school, and with an Advisory Board of five ladies from the Froebel Society.

The building of the Froebel Academy contains four beautifully lighted floors, heated and ventilated by the best methods.

The Froebel Society sent delegates to the General Federation in 1890 to New York, in 1892 to Chicago, and in 1894 to Philadelphia. It was also represented at Louisville in 1896. Its influence on the growth of kindergarten sentiment and methods has been incalculable. Its representatives are always in demand whenever education is the theme for study or discussion. Its presentation of the subject at the convention of the New York State Federa-

tion excited enthusiasm, and the systematic development of its work has shown no less wisdom than public spirit.

The presidents have been Mrs. Alice A. Chadwick, Mrs. Emily Wood Munson, Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, Mrs. Marcia W. Brooks, Mrs. Sarah W. Taylor, and Mrs. C. F. Underhill.

Its present membership is ninety-nine, with sixteen associate. It meets now on first Mondays, and works under five departments—Literature, Home, Education, Music, and Current Topics.

"**Friends**," of Buffalo, "began in a tea-cup." In 1889 Mrs. Davenport, who is still an active member, received on Thursday afternoons, and a party of friends, who came regularly, resolved themselves into a little study club. "Fine China" was the topic for the first season; "Shakespeare and His Comedies" filled two winters; and for several years the club discussed "Current Topics" and "Current Literature," keeping abreast of the times and the new books.

In 1896 the club adopted a course of American history, literature, and art, paying particular attention to America's great women and men, and having the finest literary productions read before the club. The club has a critic, and insists on a drill on pronunciation and the use of words, at each meeting. The club numbers three direct descendants of Roger Williams, two descendants of signers of the Declaration, a member of the Holland Society, descendants of commissioned officers in the French War, and one-half the members are Daughters of the American Revolution, so the study of American history is especially agreeable. The membership is limited to thirty, who meet fortnightly during the season.

The Graduates' Association is the oldest of the literary societies of women in Buffalo. It was founded in June, 1876. At that time the Buffalo Seminary completed its twenty-fifth year, and to celebrate "*Semper fideles*," this event in a suitable manner, graduates from all over the country were invited to participate in the class histories, the dinners, and other festivities which made the occasion memorable.

At one of the meetings incident to the celebration it was suggested that the assembled graduates form an association, which was moved, seconded, and carried without a dissenting voice.

Officers were elected and the "Graduates' Association" of Buffalo was formed.

The meetings the first year were very informal. From thirty to thirty-five members met fortnightly in one of the rooms of the old school, and when the president timidly proposed that papers upon selected subjects should be prepared and read, it was considered "too great a tax upon the time," and readings were substituted. The subjects were collected from English literature, and followed the dictates of inclination and individual taste.

The second year it achieved the distinction of a Constitution and By-Laws, and became an incorporated society. This year also, a critic was appointed, who remained the critic for many years, and the study of "Words" was taken up as a course, and proved of great interest and value.

Since that time fine courses of study have been pursued every year, and the association gained a literary reputation, which brought to it the assignment of the Literary Record from the women managers for the State of New York for the World's Fair.

In the course of the years the Graduates' Association gained confidence in their own power to accomplish the difficult, and one day decided to buy a lot at the end of Highland Park facing the old school, and build a home of their own. This resulted in the "Chapter House."

The building cost about \$15,000; lot, \$2,500. It has a hall with seating capacity for three hundred and fifty people. It has a stage adapted to musical or dramatic purposes, with dressing-rooms, while the basement is fitted out with every appliance for entertainment. The corner-stone of this building was laid June 12, 1884. It was formally opened November 6, 1884, Dr. Charles E. West, the former principal of the Buffalo Seminary, giving the dedicatory address.

The Chapter House is now the property of the Women Teachers' Association, and the "Graduates" occupy fine rooms in the Twentieth Century Club-House.

The president of the Graduates' Association, for twelve years, was Mrs. Noyes, and upon her resignation the office of president emeritus was created, and she was elected to it for life.

The annual entertainment takes the form of a supper to the graduating class of the Seminary. This is a fine thing on both sides. The young bring their enthusiasm, the old extend a welcome and encouragement.

The Association now consists of a large number of highly trained women, and does admirable literary work.

Among its presidents have been Mrs. William H. Gardener, Mrs. Alfred P. Wright, Miss Charlotte Mulligan, Miss Harriet Buck, Mrs. Henry Hopkins, and for a second time, Mrs. W. H. Gardener.

Good Citizenship League, of Flushing, L. I., was incorporated June, 1891. Its constitution stated that "the undersigned women, believing that the spirit of the age demands a higher standard of moral and civil duty, unite in forming an association incorporated under the name of the 'Good Citizenship League' of Flushing.

"The object of this League is to provide for women such educational advantages, ethical, civil, and social, as shall give them increased power for usefulness in all departments of national service. The purposes of the association being broadly educational, it shall be independent of sect and party organiza-

tion; the basis of membership being sincerity of purpose, love of truth, and earnest desire to promote the best interests of humanity."

The officers consisted of president, vice-president, secretaries, treasurer, and six directors. Each are elected for one year, and may be reelected for two other succeeding years, but not longer.

The membership is divided into seven standing committees: Education, Art, Current Topics, Ethics, Literature, Local Reform, and Political Economy.

The chairmen of the standing committees have charge of the sessions which represent the literary work of their departments, and prepare memoranda of the programmes to be submitted to the Board of Directors.

An annual report is also expected from each chairman, and all active members are required to belong to one or other of the committees. Two members of the league are appointed quarterly by the president to serve as custodians, whose duty it is to attend all meetings of the league, receive guests, see to the comfort of the audience, and prepare and distribute ballot slips for elections. They keep the league's bulletin in readiness for inspection at the regular meetings and post upon it such matter as may be given them for that purpose by officers of the league or chairman of the standing committees.

The Local Reform Committee of this club has been one of the most energetic and useful. A section of the by-laws provides for Village Work; and the Local Reform Committee has a hearing two days in the year before the club, and these days are considered the most important in the club year. The work has been largely the care and preservation of the fine old village trees, and the improvement of the grounds around the public buildings. The committee also offered a prize to the scholars of the village school for the best essay on Cruelty to Animals; and employed an effective speaker to deliver an address on the subject of "Cigarette Smoking," to the High School.

The fifty charter members have grown to one hundred and fifty active workers, and six honorary members of whom one is a gentleman.

The presidents have been Ellen C. Leggett, M.D., Mary L. Elliman, Flora M. Barstow, Anna M. Goodridge, and Eliza MacDonald, who still remains the presiding officer.

The league was the hostess on the occasion of a large gathering of the Council of Long Island Clubs, at which representatives from many New York clubs were present by invitation. Mrs. Parsons, of Hempstead, occupied the chair, and Miss E. MacDonald gave the address of welcome. The addresses by Mrs. Chadwick, of Brooklyn; Mrs. Henry A. Powell, of the Brooklyn Board of Education; Mrs. S. H. Powell, of Hempstead; Miss Marie Bromwell; and Mrs. Andrew Jacobs, of the Brooklyn Board of Education, were all upon some division of the general subject of education.

The Committee of the Council elected for 1897-98 consisted of Miss Eliza MacDonald, of Flushing, chairman; Mrs. Frederick C. Truslow, Mrs. A. J. Perry, Mrs. J. K. Dunn, Mrs. Mary E. Craigie, Miss Anna Willetts, and Mrs. Alvah G. Brown.

A delightful lunch in the country club-house was a feature of the day. In the afternoon Mrs. J. Howard Hobbs spoke upon "The College Girl," Mrs. T. J. Backus upon "How to Become a College Girl," Mrs. C. O. Craigie upon "Libraries on Long Island," Miss Sophia Halliday upon "The University Settlement on Long Island," Mrs. Marianna W. Chapman upon "Women in Civics," and Mrs. James Scrimgeour upon "The Health Protective Association."

The New York clubs represented were the "Phalo," "Clio," Society for Political Study, the West End Republican Association, the Normal College Alumnae, the Barnard Club, the Woman's Press Club, the Public Education Society, and the Kindergarten Association.

Jamaica Woman's Club was founded in November, 1888, by its first president, Mrs. Mabel Miller Smith, a daughter of Olive Thorne Miller. The



MRS. M. M. SMITH,
Founder and First President Jamaica Woman's Club, New York

membership, originally limited to twenty, was afterward increased to thirty, and the meetings were held in the pleasant homes of the members. In quiet ways the Woman's Club of Jamaica has been from the first a centre of useful and kindly influences. In 1890 it organized from a botanical class the Linnæan Club. This club is for the diffusion of botanical knowledge and practical floriculture, and holds semi-annual flower shows, where prizes are only awarded to amateurs. All the children of the village are enlisted in the work of growing plants for this show. Prizes are offered for best herbarium, best collection of plants, greatest variety of plants raised by any one under sixteen, and best arranged basket of flowers.

In 1891 the Jamaica Woman's Club accomplished a beautiful and timely public work in the purchase of a tract of land to be known as Highland Park and used as a permanent pleasure ground for Jamaica. The club is now raising money to build a village Athenæum, and there is no doubt that it will accomplish this undertaking also.

In 1896 it took the initiative in organizing a council of the neighboring clubs on Long Island, the principal object of which is to secure a central and

suitable building in which the women's clubs of the villages may meet and cultivate relations with each other.

The Jamaica Woman's Club has always been hospitable and more than reciprocal. Its annual luncheons given at the Fifth Avenue Hotel, in New York city, every year of its life, are memorable occasions. The beautiful flowers and foliage used for decoration are brought by the members from their own homes. The literary exercises are of a high order. Guests are invited usually from among the prominent club women of Brooklyn and New York.

The presidents have been Mrs. Mabel Miller Smith, Mrs. William S. Cogswell, Mrs. John Kendall Dunn, Mrs. Julia M. Parsons, Mrs. J. H. Hobbs.

It joined the General Federation in April, 1890, and the State Federation as a charter member. Its meetings are on alternate Wednesdays, and it works under five departments—Literature, Education, Social Economics, Music, and Current Topics.

The club has five honorary members—its founder, since her removal to Brooklyn, Mrs. Olive Thorne Miller, Mrs. Croly, Mrs. Edward Langford, and Mrs. Stephen L. Spader.

Haarlem Philharmonic Club, of Harlem, is a musical club composed wholly of women; its limit of membership is always full, with a waiting list.



The founder and inspiration of this uptown musical movement was Mrs. Thomas H. Newman, who remains its president. The function of the club proper is largely social, but it has also performed an important work in creating and educating the musical taste of a large, uptown neighborhood.

The work during the season consists of six musicals, six afternoon rehearsals, and six evening concerts given in the fine concert hall of the Harlem Opera House. The works performed are of the highest class, and ably presented un'er a trained and skillful leader. These entertainments bring together the best society of Harlem, and its music-loving character is evident from the appreciative attention given to the performances. It is purely a membership society; tickets are not sold, but invitations are eagerly accepted. The influence has been marked upon the young people of the neighborhood, and upon society at large.

Household Economic Association, of Syracuse, was founded in 1893. It began in 1892, as a "House-keepers' Association" with a membership of fifteen young women, drawn principally from the Collegiate Alumnæ of Syracuse. A year later it changed its name to the Household Economic Association and became auxiliary to the National Association.

The first two years the work consisted of papers upon subjects of household interest and the issue of a "household register," or directory for emergency help. This has developed into a bureau of household service, with a

clerk in attendance, and a list of personally recommended domestics for all positions.

The first president was Mrs. S. B. Larned; the secretary, Mrs. W. H. Nodine, who succeeded Mrs. Larned as president.



MRS. W. H. NODINE,
President Household Economic Association,
Syracuse, N. Y.

There is a well-equipped school of domestic science, with kitchen and lecture-room and three classes—one for house-keepers, two for house-helpers. The course consists of thirty-six lessons for each class. At the completion of the course the pupil, upon examination, is given a diploma if qualified, and furnished a position.

The Household Sanitation Committee has furnished lectures upon "Life History of Bacteria," illustrated with the microscope, and showing the culture of the same; "Fresh Air and Ventilation in our Homes;" "House Building from a Woman's Point of View;" "Location and Proper Surroundings for a Home;" "Soils;" "Cellars;" "The Use and Abuse of Home Decoration;" "A Model Kitchen," illustrated with electrical cooking appliances; "An Ideal Sick-room," with demonstration by trained nurse; "Our Water and Ice Supply;" "Emergencies from a Medical Standpoint."

Under the Food Committee the membership has studied the "Chemistry of Cooking" long and thoroughly, and has been favored by lectures from local physicians, men and women, on nutrition, digestion, hygiene, and the like. Papers have been given on "Milk," "Butter and its Substitutes," "Sugars," "Fruits and Nuts," "Meats, How to Select and How to Cut," illustrated by diagrams, "Oysters and Shell Fish," "Soups," "Canned Goods," and many others have had their share of study with profit to each member.

Miss Emma L. Brown, a graduate of the Boston Cooking School, is the teacher of the School of Domestic Science for 1897-98.

The Executive Committee consists of fourteen ladies, who are the general officers, and chairmen of the standing committees.

Mrs. Nodine remains the president, and Miss Jennie Chopin secretary.

The Hawthorne Club, of Belfast, is young. Organized in 1895, federated in the same year. Its motto, "Knowledge is the treasure of which study is the key," is the keynote to the purpose of its existence.

Its work in American history, life, literature, and art is sincere and inter-

esting. It began with "Aboriginal America," "The Period of Voyage and Discovery," "Jesuit Influence," and so on to the "Colonial Period," the "Influence of Holland," and the "Widening Horizon which Preceded the Dawn of the Revolution." *"Knowledge is the treasure of which study is the key."*

This was the beginning of their study, and it was varied by the discussion of "Current Topics," "The Growth of Literature," and "The Development of Music."

The Hawthorne Club has for its president Miss S. S. Jennings, Miss T. T. Chamberlain secretary. It issues a model refined and sensible year-book.

The Woman's Investigating Club, of Buffalo, was formed as a study club, the membership consisting of women who were occupied with domestic and social duties, and who found a stimulating interest in the few hours given every week to the exercise of intellectual faculty and the acquisition of knowledge.



The club was organized in 1888 in a church parlor, with thirty-seven charter members. The suggestion of forming a club for study purposes came from Mrs. Julia Newman Danforth, but the enthusiasm for work, and the success which has attended the club growth and develop-

ment is affectionately referred to the zeal and energy of the first president, Mrs. Florence Hopkins Lyon. The "Tower" room in the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union is dedicated to the memory of Mrs. Lyon, and her death, which occurred in April, 1894, was felt as a personal loss by every member. It is in the Tower room that the meetings of the Investigating Club are held. The pro-

"Better not be at all than not be noble."



DR. MARY I. DENTON,
President Woman's Investigating Club,
Buffalo



MRS. LUCY D. BUTT,
Representative Member Woman's Investi-
gating Club, Buffalo

gramme of work is prepared by a committee, and in 1897 covered the fields of history, literature, and art of America. Members prepare the papers upon the different topics assigned, and the subject is then thrown open to free discussion.

An important and interesting department of the work is that of "Oral Topics." The membership is divided into groups of ten, and each of these groups has charge of Oral Topics in turn. No papers are allowed, and the first part of the discussion is allotted to the group of the day. After that, it is thrown open to the club. These discussions do much to keep the club in touch with the progress of the times, as the topics are mostly of current interest. Among the subjects discussed have been Social Settlements, Practical Electricity, Bimetallism, and Psychic Force, Princeton University, Art Galleries



MRS. FLORENCE H. LYON,
First President Woman's Investigating Club,
Buffalo



MRS. J. N. DANFORTH,
Originator Woman's Investigating Club, Buffalo

in the United States, Trusts and Unions, and Household Economics. The discussion in every case is led by some one well informed on the subject. A short time during each meeting is devoted to parliamentary drill, conducted by the efficient president, Dr. Denton.

During one year the course of study was American Authors, and as a souvenir the photographs of eighteen of them were framed as one large picture, and ornaments the club-room. At the Annual Entertainment that year each member wore something that suggested an author or his work. Some of these ideas were very clever. Two dice tied with a ribbon represented "An Old Maid's Paradise," by Elizabeth Stuart Phelps. Holland's "Bitter Sweet" was guessed from two tiny bottles, one filled with gall, the other with honey. Three samples of Indian silk stood for "The Prince [prints] of India," by Lew Wallace. Seven blocks of highly polished wood remained a mystery to the end, none being sufficiently versed in wood-lore to define Thoreau's "Maine Woods." Bryant's "Thanatopsis," Poe's "A City in the Sea," Howells's "A Woman's Reason," Emerson's "Essay on Love," Lowell's "Biglow Papers,"

Holmes's "Songs in Many Keys," Hawthorne's "Notes on Italy," Mrs. Whitney's "Homespun Yarns," Whitman's "Leaves of Grass," and many others were represented, and the club was unanimous in declaring the idea most helpful in aiding to impress the work upon the memory.

Dr. Mary Innes Denton has been one of the most untiring and energetic of influences as historian and librarian, and later as leader and president. To her the club owes much of its present prosperity.

The **Ka-na-te-nah Club** was started by a few ladies of Syracuse for social purposes.

In the rapid growth of a city new elements are constantly coming in. Men find a welcome in their clubs and business surroundings, and older women residents felt that something should be done to bring the wives of newcomers into social contact and aid in making them feel at home.

The club started with a membership of two hundred and fifty, and secured for its home the former residence of Mrs. W. A. Sherman (the old homestead of the Hamilton-Whites), on Fayette Park.

This is one of the most beautiful and attractive places in Syracuse; the first season of the "Ka-na-te-nah," therefore, opened most auspiciously. A corporate body has been formed, the shares of capital stock held by women exclusively.

The meetings have been most interesting and delightful.

The social object of the club has forced upon it as one of its functions the entertaining of distinguished persons. This is largely accomplished by afternoon teas and receptions.

The walls of the parlors are hung with fine paintings, loaned by artists and others, and the table of the reading-room is abundantly supplied with periodical literature.

The Social Art Club has rented a room in the club-house, which is always open and affords a fine opportunity for the study of rare art subjects.

The names of the first Board of Directors were Mrs. P. McCarthy Emory, K. C. Trump, L. M. Kennedy, E. M. Northrup, E. K. Whedon, A. W. White, L. A. Stearns, G. H. Webb, M. A. Croasdale, F. M. Crouse, F. J. Saul, J. E. Hanchett.



MRS. P. MCCARTHY EMORY,
President of Ka-na-te-nah Club, Syracuse, N. Y.

Mrs. Percy McCarthy Emory is the able president, and also the founder and editor of *Remarques*, a social magazine which represents the art and club interests of Syracuse. She is a member of the Woman's Press Club of New York.

Literary Clubs.—What were formerly called "Literary" clubs of women are now somewhat difficult of classification. Most of them have broadened their field and included lines of more "practical" work. In some instances this consists of a change from the historic and literary to sociologic study, in other cases to civic work or participation in some aggressive reform. Out of the two hundred clubs registered in the New York State Federation at Buffalo in 1896, less than sixty can now be counted as purely "literary." Among these Brooklyn possesses the largest number of any other city, and the New York Clio ranks high.

"Literature, it is said, can never be democratic in its appeal. It will always be the affair of a minority." It was fortunate that the woman's club began with a strong literary aspect, with a class of women who "wanted to know;" and it is found now that more modern clubs, beginning upon more practical, more material lines, go back in time to first principles and study the basis, the history, and literature of their lines of work.

Clio Club, of New York, is essentially literary, composed of about fifty very bright women, representing society and professions, teachers, students, parliamentarians, and others. It has never swerved from "*Petimus optima*," the lines marked out in the beginning, and a visit to the club is a singular delight and refreshment, because the atmosphere is its own, quite detached from the rushing, restless, eager spirit which marks so many "active" clubs.

The club was founded in 1888 for the study of history, as its name implies. Its first work was Grecian and Roman, with the best text-books as guides, and readings from the "Iliad" and "Odyssey." Later the study of English authors occupied the time most satisfactorily, until, in 1896, an able scheme of American Literature was planned, and has been followed.

The flower of the Clio is the white rose. The annual reception to members and invited guests is famous for its wit and the refinement of beauty which characterizes its decorations and its assembled membership. The president of Clio is Mrs. H. T. Pierce; the colors, white and gold; the motto, "*Petimus optima*"—"We seek the best."

In 1895 "Clio" was incorporated, with a Board of Trustees, five in number. There is also an Advisory Board and an Executive Committee, which consists of the general officers and two other members. To obtain admission to the Clio Club the name and residence of the applicant must be presented in writing to the Executive Committee by a member after the applicant has twice

visited the club. She must also be known and vouched for in writing by two other members. Three negative votes exclude an applicant. The entrance fee is \$5; annual dues, \$3.

The meetings are weekly, on Monday afternoons.

Literary Club of the Church of the Messiah in Buffalo is one of the oldest of the purely literary clubs in that city. It was founded in December, 1880, with a membership of forty women. In the beginning the membership was limited to women above the age of sixteen attending the church. There was no other condition except the payment of one dollar each as annual dues. A constitution was adopted, and the object stated to be the encouragement and pursuit of study and literary work.

After the first year so many applications were received from other women that restrictions were removed on condition of active participation in the work. The meetings were still held in the church parlors, while the number of members rapidly advanced from fifty to a total of one hundred and fifty zealous workers.

The subjects considered have been: The City of London, one year; American History and Literature, three years; English History and Literature, three years; Ireland and the Irish, one year; France and the French, two years. The method of work is by essay or talk, followed by discussion. Calendars and reference lists are published.

Among more general topics were: "The Health of American Women," "The Ideal Home," "Self-Education for Women," "Collegiate and Industrial Education for Women," "Hospitality," "The Use and Abuse of Money."

Conversations have proved an excellent school for extemporaneous speaking. Women no longer lose their heads when they find their feet.

Courses of lectures have been given on hygiene and physical culture, two on the Shakespearean dramas, and one, by Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz, that resulted in the formation of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union of Buffalo.

Although its avowed purpose is mental development, the club stands ready to aid in any movement for the elevation of womanhood. It was represented by a delegate, Mrs. Harriet A. Townsend, its president, at the first convention of Women's Clubs in New York in 1889; and was a charter member of both State and National Federations.

Mrs. Townsend has been the inspiration of the club from its beginning; she is now one of the Board of Direction in the General Federation.

The Women's Literary Club, of Dunkirk, was founded in 1885, through the efforts of Miss Ella A. Lapham, who made it a centre of influence not only in Dunkirk, but neighboring towns. Miss Lapham was president for five years, and established a high grade of literary excellence, and drew to it a

group of very earnest, intelligent, and high-minded women, who aided her plans and strengthened the reputation of the club in the community.

The literary programmes have always been models of suggestive classification, and two calendars issued during the first five years of the club's life were of such exceptional literary and artistic merit that they were in demand far beyond the club, and netted upward of seven hundred dollars, which was placed at interest in the bank. A report says: "The plan of study has been to take a country, its literature, and something of its history and art, chronologically, and devoting from one to three years to the study of each country, as seemed advisable. In this way we have in the past eleven years travelled through America, England, Ireland, Germany, and France, and this year we enter the sunny land of Italy, probably for a three years' course. It is the custom of the club to have one or two papers each meeting, followed by a half hour of general discussion. The discussion is animated and interesting."

The club membership is limited to fifty, and for years met in homes of its members. It has now a permanent room which is very bright, cheerful, and homelike. In connection with the work lectures are sometimes given on special topics. It was through the instrumentality of the Woman's Club that the Dunkirk Educational and Industrial Union was formed in 1888, and it also coöperated with the Buffalo Union in securing the appointment of women on the Board of Trustees of the State Asylum for the Insane.

In 1890 a committee was formed, called "Club Extension." This was to place superfluous (not worthless) books, magazines, and papers of the more fortunate in the hands of women in the city of Dunkirk, or among the hills of Chautauqua County.

Dunkirk has two other literary clubs, the East Side Reading Club and the Cardinal Newman Club. There are also two music clubs, one composed of older, and one of younger members. These clubs, in studying the music of the different masters and countries, are not only acquiring a knowledge of the different schools and methods of composition, but are gaining constant stimulus for regular practice.

Fredonia, the sister town to Dunkirk, felt strongly the intellectual stimulus excited by the literary activity. Its Shakespeare Club was founded in 1885, and has done excellent work. Its method was to first become familiar with a play, and then study it analytically, afterward making it the subject of comparative study. The method used was as follows:

"Chronological proofs, external and internal.

"Outline of plot; on what does it turn?

"Condition of the text as to correctness.

"What of the title? Its rank as compared with other plays of the same period?

"How long a time is comprised in the action?"

"Analyze the two central characters.

"By what individual characteristics are the people grouped around them distinguished?"

"What byplay in the drama?"

"What of its poetic excellence?"

"What proportion of end-stopped lines, rhymes, extra syllables, etc.?"

Questions and directions in constant use are as follows:

"Read one scene, then review, any member being called upon for explanation.

"Point out and give full explanation of all classical and mythological allusions, all scriptural allusions and parallels, all figures of speech, all allusions to customs and occasions now obsolete, all obsolete words, all parallel passages in other plays, all references to works of other authors, all historical or geographical allusions."

Two younger Shakespeare Clubs are now in existence, as well as Art and Musical Clubs.

At first the clubs of Fredonia were composed of men and women. Later the women closed their doors to the men. Men then formed a literary club of their own, which meets once a month in the parlors of a hotel, and is signalized by a dinner to which their wives are invited as guests. This is turning the tables very handsomely.

The Livonia Ladies' Literary Club came together in 1892 as a World's Fair reading class for study preparatory to its visit to Chicago and the World's Fair. Interest was aroused by this course of reading, which gave an impetus to organization.

In 1893 the present name was adopted, and the serious study of English and American history and literature taken up. This was followed by the study of the history, art, and literature of other nations, much time having been given to Greece and Rome.

The meetings are weekly, and close with discussion of current topics and new books. Every four weeks an evening meeting is held, to which gentlemen are invited to listen to a short programme and unite in enjoying the social side of the club life.

In 1896 the club sustained a lecture course; it now has the use of a State library, and, as a step further in progress, united itself through its president from the beginning with the State Federation.

Highland Park Literary Club was founded in 1891. It is, as its name implies, a neighborhood club, and has been of great practical service to its membership, which is not limited.

The first two years were given to the study of American history and

literature, other years to prehistoric times, the development of sculpture, leading to a detailed study of architecture, ancient and modern.

All the work is done by the membership.

It was the first club to apply for a State travelling library, and has used three to great advantage. It has been instrumental in bringing to its neighborhood two juvenile libraries furnished by the State, which have proved of great value to the school children.

It issues a yearly calendar with reference list of literary authorities.

Monday Club, of Warsaw, was founded in 1891 by two women, Mrs. W. C. Gowinlock, and Mrs. Maude S. Humphrey. They were the two first presidents:

"In essentials, unity; in non-essentials, liberty; in all things, charity."

Mrs. Gowinlock, from 1891 to 1895; Mrs. Humphrey, from 1895 to 1897. Her official career was cut short by death a few weeks after election to the treasurership of the New York State Federation,

Mrs. Gowinlock having been elected auditor.

During the first years the Monday Club met at the homes of its members and devoted its energies to a continuous and exhaustive study of the histories of nations—Greek, Roman, English, French, Italian, and others. Lecturers were obtained that were welcomed by a larger public, plays were produced and musicals given, the latter by club talent.

Growth in numbers obliged the settlement in permanent quarters, and the club has now an auditorium that will seat two hundred persons and a library started with one hundred volumes from the State University.

The membership of one hundred and ninety-five is divided into committees upon Literature, Music, the Drama, Business, and Hospitality. It includes all ages, from the recent girl graduate to the woman of eighty. Social calls are dispensed with by members, the social and friendly status being established by membership. The



MRS. MAUDE S. HUMPHREY,
Ex-President Monday Club, Warsaw, N. Y.

club colors are blue and silver.

The Warsaw Society for Village Work antedated the club, but has been greatly helped and enlarged by it. It was organized in 1888 for the alleviation of suffering among the needy, the promotion of temperance and self-helpfulness, and to maintain an industrial school where girls shall be instructed in sewing, kitchengarden, and other useful work. A village missionary was employed for house-to-house visitation.



MONDAY CLUB-ROOM, WARSAW, N. Y.

In 1891 a reorganization was effected. The missionary was discharged and the village divided into districts. A director and two assistants were appointed to each district, which has proved a most effectual way of accomplishing the work of reorganization.

At the time this was effected an old historic house was for sale, which was purchased for the industrial school, using the upper rooms for sewing school and kitchengarden, and the lower ones for a free kindergarten.

The school and work are now in a very flourishing condition. During the winter mothers' meetings are held, with talks on school and everyday affairs, and a light supper. Many of the members of the club are workers for the Society for Village Work.

Monday Club, of Westfield, dates from 1883. It is an organization of fifty studious, intelligent women, whose number is limited and carries a waiting list.

The work is historic, and literary upon broad lines, taking in modes of government, the social life, and art culture of peoples and periods.

Instead of one or two papers, the divisions of a subject are represented by six or eight short talks followed by general discussion. This method has been

MRS. W. C. GOWINLOCK,
First President of Warsaw Monday Club

found useful in creating a wider distribution of active work and interest among the members.

The president, Mrs. C. P. Crandall, is a Vassar graduate, and devotes herself to the interests of the club.

The flower is the carnation.

Jamestown has its Fortnightly and Mozart Clubs, which have been flourishing organizations for many years. The Fortnightly devoted 1896 to the study of "ye old colonial days," and the year before to Italy and art. Their standards have been high, and their influence for culture and progress noteworthy. They have not only aimed at doing good work themselves, but have brought to their city musicians and lecturers of eminence and repute.

The Monday Literary Club, of Canisteo, was founded in the autumn of 1887, under the name of the "Longfellow" Club. The limitation of the name was found to be injurious to the work, and 1889 it was reorganized as the Monday Literary Club. It then took up the study of English history from the earliest Saxon invasion down to Queen Victoria. Ancient history, beginning three centuries before Christ, started with Egypt, and occupied several profitable years. Since then the study has been American history and Shakespeare.

The club looks back on a series of studies that have brought a delightful sense of enlargement as well as fuller realization of how much there is still to be learned.

Annual entertainments have been given, and close friendships formed that can never be broken.

The influence has been wholly for good, tending toward the fullest possible development.

The Shakespearean Club was organized in January, 1887, with a limited membership of twenty.

The club was fortunate in bringing within its circle a number of ripe as well as ardent students, and in the impersonal character which they possessed. Each member brought her particular gift with pleasure to the service of the whole, while the enthusiasm of the younger members strengthened and encouraged the efforts of the older ones.

Upon removal of members to other towns, their names are placed upon the honorary list. Thus Canada has two of the "honorary" ones, West Virginia one, Pennsylvania one, one swells the list of the learned in Boston.

In the autumn of 1895 the club joined the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs, and in 1896 the University Extension. Last year it had the use of an excellent reference library from the State. Socially the club is a great pleasure. The closer acquaintance resulting from the weekly coming together, the annual commemoration of the birthday of the club, the celebra-

tion of Shakespeare's birthday, and a picnic in summer are some of the social events.

Diversion from more serious study has been found in the Highlands of Scotland with the "Lady of the Lake," and the fastings and struggles of Buddha in the "Light of Asia."

Monday Club, of Wellsville, was started in 1893 as a reading and study club, with the further object of establishing a free public library in the town.

By 1894 a collection of books had been gathered for which the taxpayers of the village gladly provided commodious rooms, and which were supplemented for reference purposes by the travelling libraries which New York State places at the disposal of all who accept the conditions.

In 1896 the library had accumulated 2,050 volumes, and had 735 persons upon its reading list. This work had been accomplished by the members of the Monday Club, who raised the money, bought the books, and acted as unpaid librarians. The Monday Club is registered as one of the literary clubs in the University Extension movement, and has pursued courses in French and American history, in geology and civics, and also does much miscellaneous work in literature and current topics.

Its president, Mrs. Frank B. Church, was first vice-president, and is now president of the Allegany County Federation and the recording secretary of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs and Societies.

Mrs. Church has been one of the most active organizers and workers in the Women's Club and library movement in Allegany County. Much variety is given to the Monday Club by the answers to roll-call which take a wide range from useful recipes to original poems.

A basket picnic is a feature with which the club winds up its work for the summer.

Its motto is, "The end crowns the work," and its flower, the daisy.

The Medical College Alumnae Association is an outgrowth of the student life of the Woman's Medical College and Hospital of New York. It is one of the few strictly professional clubs, and has a very able president in Rita Dunlevy, M.D.

The association has but little time for enjoyment or literary work, but it has stated meetings where questions and discussions relating to medicine in theory and practice are sustained with great spirit, and the annual reunions are distinguished by an overflow of wit and bright though brief addresses from members and guests.

The Physicians' League, of Buffalo, is also a club representing the medical profession, but it is confined to practising physicians, with the object of social enjoyment and progress all along the line of medical work.

The meetings are monthly, and are devoted to papers on medical topics which each member has a right to present in turn. There are also reports of special cases, and discussion of therapeutic agents, and new aspect of medical science. Jane Wall Carroll, M.D., is the president, and Maud J. Frye is the secretary.



Motley Club, of Brooklyn, is neither large nor ambitious. It is one of the delightful groups of about twenty-five women, who pursue certain lines of historical study with an intelligence and enthusiasm that are rarely seen in schools.

The club year 1896-97 was given to colonial history from John Smith and the Indians to the conditions just before the Revolution.

This year (1898) the Motley is in England, and the yearly programme, which is illustrated with lovely views of some of the noted places to be visited, is preceded by the descriptive lines of Shakespeare :

This royal throne of kings, this scepter'd isle,
This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars,
This other Eden, demi-paradise ;
This fortress built by Nature for herself,
Against infection and the hand of war ;
This happy breed of men, this little world ;
This precious stone set in the silver sea,
Which serves it in the office of a wall
Or as a moat defensive to a house,
Against the envy of less happy lands ;
This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England."

"Sweetness and light."

The officers of the Motley do not change every year. There is a delightful air of restfulness and security, of satisfaction and peace in the list which remains the same after an election.

The president that was, is still Mrs. E. T. Sherman ; first vice-president, Mrs. A. G. Kraetzer ; second vice-president, Mrs. D. H. Clement ; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. R. Welch, Jr. ; corresponding secretary, Miss Alice Dean.

The bibliography for the year makes one envy the Motley. It is a model list of literary and historic landmarks.

Matthew Arnold furnishes the motto of Motley with his "Sweetness and light," and a chain forming a ring tied with a little ribbon scroll upon which is the name, and bearing a lighted torch, is its insignia.

The Monday Class, of Buffalo, was the outgrowth, in the winter of 1885, of a small reading circle of six busy housewives, who met for two hours of an afternoon in each week to read for profit.

The group met without name or officer, or special method. But in 1896,

finding more pleasure than profit in this manner of meeting, and the membership having increased, a club organization was effected, a programme committee appointed, and a critic elected.

In 1896 the study of American literature was begun, followed a few years later by the study of Shakespeare. This occupied two years, but was found to be the work of a lifetime. It was therefore reluctantly abandoned, and "England in the Eighteenth Century" taken up. It now began to print its yearly programmes, and arranged its work into one paper, two short talks, and general discussion upon the given topic at each meeting.

Germany and Italy, the life and literature, followed England; the work, it is felt, has been useful in broadening the mental horizon and better fitting its participants for their more active and practical duties.



The National Society of New England Women is the largest of the patriotic clubs in New York city. It was founded by Mrs. W. G. Slade on January 4, 1895, and incorporated two months later. Mrs. Slade possesses unusual executive ability, which has been demonstrated in the rapid growth and systematic organization of the society. This has a threefold purpose. The primary thought which brought it into existence was a philanthropic, not a charitable one—a desire to promote the interests of all women

of New England origin, either socially or in the line of the professions and trades. The second object was literary work, which embraces study of American history, religious, political, and social, beginning with the landing of the Pilgrims. This section is under the direction of Mrs. Edward Addison Greeley, who has divided history into convenient periods and supplemented many interesting features which have increased the value of the work. The meetings are held once a month at the Waldorf-Astoria. Once in two months, after the general business meeting, held at the same place, a literary and musical programme is provided, of such excellence that it never fails to attract the attention of many outside the society.

Social intercourse is the third aim of the organization, whereby the bond of union and fellowship will hold a far-reaching power and influence. Commemorative dinners and sup-



MRS. W. G. SLADE,
Founder and First President National Society
of New England Women

pers, annual receptions, and regular luncheons contribute to this important function. Members may belong to one of two classes—active or associate.

An active member is one who is a native of New England, or both of whose parents or one parent and husband were born there.

Associate membership consists in having one parent, or one or more grandparents, or a husband, who were native New Englanders. As only active members are eligible for the highest offices this method will always keep the governing power of the society in the hands of its genuine New England members; but it must be said this rule has had some exceptions.

The election and promotion of officers presents some peculiarities not found in other organizations of women. Only a second vice-president, an assistant secretary, an assistant treasurer, and four of the Board of Managers are elected each year—the highest offices being filled by the promotion of those holding the next lower position. Retiring officers are eligible for any office except those just vacated by them. The second vice-president has charge of all the purchases of the society, and when promoted to first vice-president is chairman of the Membership Committee, thus becoming conversant with the most important details of the society. All three presidents are called to all regular committee meetings, but only the presiding officer has a vote.

There are ten standing committees, the chairman of each being appointed by the president, and from three to five committee meetings are held every Thursday morning, except during the months of June, July, and August, and legal holidays, so that the whole business of the society is thoroughly systematized and works harmoniously.

Mrs. Slade was the first president, and Mrs. Theodore F. Seward, the second. The present officers (1897) are Mrs. Alfred Mills Judson, president; Mrs. William Gerry Slade, first vice-president; Mrs. Henry Clarke-Coe, second vice-president; Miss A. Mabel Sutton, recording secretary; Mrs. Charles L. Wetherbee, treasurer; and Mrs. J. Woolsey Shepard, chairman of the Board of Managers. The Rev. Phebe Hanaford is chaplain to this feminine order, and Mrs. P. Carpenter, a lawyer, its legal adviser. The initiation fees and annual dues are arranged as follows:

For each of the first one hundred members the fee is one dollar, the annual dues the same; for each of the second one hundred members the initiative fee is raised to two dollars, the annual dues the same; the fees and dues increase correspondingly until the tenth one hundred membership is reached, which will be the maximum fees and dues for all subsequent members. The growth of the society has been phenomenal. At the organization meeting in January, 1895, eight members were enrolled. At the close of 1897 the membership had increased to five hundred. In order to establish a treasury for the ultimate purpose of building a club home several notable entertainments have been

given, some of them typifying old New England customs, such as "The Quilting Bee," at the Hotel Majestic, and "The Husking Bee," at the Waldorf, in 1896. "The Carnival of American History," given at the Metropolitan Opera House on November 30 and December 1, 1897, was the largest and most successful entertainment ever undertaken by any woman's club; more than a thousand people participated in the stage scenes.

Mrs. Slade is not only founder of the national body, but has been made permanent organizer of the branches. There are four branches, the presiding officer being called a counsellor.

The New York branch is the nucleus of the national body, and is presided over at present by the same officers.

No. 2 branch is in Orange, N. J. Mrs. J. V. N. Dorr is counsellor.

No. 3 branch in Philadelphia, Penn., Mrs. D. O. Wickham, counsellor.

No. 4 branch in Chicago, Mrs. A. W. Pettibone, counsellor. Every member of every branch is a member of the National Society, and entitled to all its privileges.

The seal of the society consists of six shields bearing the coat of arms of the six New England States raised on a belt. A stalk of Indian corn rests between the shields, tied with a red and white ribbon, the early New England colors. The badge is almost the same in design, of green, gold, and white enamel, and is worn suspended on a red and white ribbon from a slender bar of gold.



Phalo 1880.

Phalo.—When four ladies met on board a steamer returning from Europe in the autumn of 1880, their companionship had become so agreeable to themselves that they wished to continue it, and becoming impressed with the value of concerted action and systematic study, added some others to their number, and formed the Phalo Club.

The fields in which they proposed to labor were philosophy, history, art, literature, and oratory.

One of the three founders, Mrs. Marie McCullough, put the initials of these subjects together and formed the name. When it was found that it was really a Greek word, signifying superiority, it was hoped that it might prove significant; and it appeared upon the helmet of Athene, which is now used as the insignia.



MRS. CEPHAS BRAINARD, JR.,
President Phalo Club, New York

Phalo enjoys the distinction not only of an original name, but also of devotion to a subject but little pursued by other clubs. The different systems of philosophy have all been investigated in the conscientious studies of its members, and their comparative value and methods discussed.

The public spirit of the club was strongly exhibited during the progress of the international congresses of the World's Fair. During the season following these congresses Phalo carried on a sub-congress for the benefit of interested women who did not go to Chicago. It selected six of the most important scheduled questions, obtained competent leaders, and invited repre-



MRS. MARIE McCULLOUGH,
A Founder of Phalo, New York



MRS. SARAH L. ROYS,
A Founder of Phalo, New York

sentatives of numerous clubs to hear the papers and participate in the discussions. The gatherings were brilliant, and included men as well as women.

Later, Phalo called together and entertained a number of clubs to discuss the scientific side of philanthropy. It has discussed among other subjects, "The Three Cosmic Principals," "Theoretical, Practical, and Absolute Philosophy," "Occult Forces in Nature," "The Relation of Science to the Transitory Period of Philosophy," "The Philosophy of Materialism," and "What Effect have Metaphysics and Science on Practical Life?"

The founders of Phalo, besides Mrs. McCullough, were Mrs. S. L. Roys, Miss Hamill, and Mrs. Moffatt, the last named becoming the first president.

Mrs. McCullough is the present chairman of the Executive Committee.

The president of Phalo for 1897, reelected for 1898, is Mrs. Cephas

Brainard, Jr., a woman of great charm of manner and ability as a presiding officer. The corresponding secretary is Miss A. M. Allen.

Port Washington Club was the result of a good deal of effort in the beginning on the part of the founder, Miss Caroline Hicks. Its membership consists of the practical housewives and home-makers of the village, and when their interest was once enlisted their intelligent energy soon created a centre of practical usefulness.

The Port Washington Club has established a village library and a Woman's Exchange which exhibits a great variety of home industry. These interests have brought together the best elements in the neighborhood, harmonized conflicting ideas, and broken down sets and cliques.

The work is all the time growing and is of perennial interest.

Portville has a Village Improvement Society, which resulted from a summer trip to England of a member of its Woman's Library Club. Returning she found the disorder of the streets unendurable. An Improvement Society was organized. It canvassed the village and obtained a subscription from every business man. The amount from each was guaranteed annually for three years. The society then went to work. It planted trees, repaired sidewalks, had fifty-one wagon loads of rubbish removed from the streets and alleys, placed waste-paper boxes on the corners, and new street lamps at frequent intervals. It started a street sprinkler, and, in short, made the village habitable and homelike.

Every-Saturday-Night Club, of Waterville, had in the beginning a Village Improvement Department, but its work inspired so much public spirit on the part of the citizens and the local authorities that there was soon nothing left for it to do.

Post-Parliament Club.—This club has grown since 1892 out of classes in parliamentary law led by Mrs. Helen Hardien Walworth. These classes proved of so much interest that a more permanent bond was desired and finally effected by the membership. An organization was formed, with social and literary club features, and with Mrs. H. H. Walworth as its president. The membership is confined to those who have been members of the classes, and as it still retains an interest in parliamentary study the club has become a post-graduate course, which includes a study of national, State, and municipal forms of government, as well as advanced parliamentary usage.

The Post-Parliament, since its inception, has made steady progress. The reinforcement of its membership and the interest of its debates have brought together women of great intelligence and progressive ideas.

The Post-Parliament is officially registered in the University Extension Department of the State of New York.

Much interest is manifested in the advanced classes, which treat parlia-

mentary law in its relation to government, and especially legislation. This study develops an investigation of the duties of representatives or delegates, the methods of elections, the authorization of credentials, and other matters which concern State and national organizations. It includes also the relations of local and general government as applied to women's societies. Most women's clubs are now incorporated, and have a direct relation to the statutes of the State under which their charters are granted. The Post-Parliament holds occasionally a "moot parliament" as an illustration of its investigations and aims.

The club has the advantage of retaining the class leader in the club president, who considers "a knowledge of parliamentary law indispensable to the club woman who would crystallize her opinions, demonstrate her ideas, and extend her influence."



Professional Woman's League, of New York city, is an organization which differs from the Woman's Club and possesses some quite distinctive and original features of its own, though affiliated with both State and General Federations of Women's Clubs.

Its founder was Mrs. A. M. Palmer, the wife of the well-known theatrical manager, who, in December, 1892, conceived the idea of bringing together the women of the different professions and rendering them helpful to each other. The idea was, in fact, an educational, industrial, artistic, and philanthropic union, with club features.

The basis was broad and the work many-sided, and especially helpful to the struggling young members of the dramatic profession. A home was essential, and was at once secured in temporary quarters, until a suitable house could be found. Classes were formed in such arts and studies as were most required by the younger professional membership, and lectures and literary courses alternated with attractive social gatherings.

The work has been constant, energetic, and successful. It has had the untiring devotion of its founder, who has been its only president, and the valuable aid of a group of able women representing the dramatic, musical, literary, and other professions. Its membership has grown from its first one hundred and fifty to between four and five hundred, in which the social, literary, and artistic elements are happily united.

The open meetings are attended by throngs of women, most of them known in the different fields of professional life and work, and all happy to contribute on occasion to the general sum of usefulness and enjoyment.

The practical side of the work is maintained through its "League Home"

and classes, for which this furnishes accommodation. The classes vary in kind and size from season to season, with the greater or less desire of the membership. There have been classes in dressmaking, plain and ornamental sewing, fencing, dancing, calisthenics, languages, music, physical culture, voice culture, tapestry, and china painting, and other departments of work. Some of these are always in operation. Some are elementary, and others more advanced.

One of its practical methods of obtaining funds is an annual bazaar toward which each member is bound to contribute two salable articles. This is held during, or just previous to the Christmas holidays, and brings a large sum to the League fund. Some of its contributions are by leading actresses, whose names alone give financial value to whatever they stand for.

Its anniversaries are distinguished by the originality and always attractive character of the exercises; the president's address, and dramatic sketches, or brief papers by well-known representatives of the dramatic profession being leading features.

The League has produced Shakespearean and other plays most creditably, every part being sustained by a League member.

It maintains an entire house for the League work at 1509 Broadway, the only woman's club in New York that occupies its own house except the Club of Trained Nurses.

Doubtless it falls short as yet of fulfilling all the purpose of those who have given so much of their time and labor to its realization. But to others the brief years of its life seem to have brought much of that for which it has striven, and the purpose alone is a long step toward that "Unity in Diversity" which is the ideal the latter-day woman is striving for.

The officers of the Professional Woman's League are: President, Mrs. Laura A. Palmer; corresponding secretary, Miss Sara Palmer; treasurer, Mrs. Edwin Knowles; chairman of Executive Committee, Mrs. Rachel McCauley; chairman of Dramatic Committee, Mrs. E. L. Fernandez. The insignia is a medallion with woman's head in relief, surrounded by silver wreath tied with dark blue ribbon; above the head P. W. L. on dark blue ground.

The Progress Club, of Oneida, is an organization of twenty-five women for purely literary purposes. It dates from December, 1889.

The studies have been two years in England, two years in France, one in Italy, two in Germany; the people, their literature, their institutions of



MRS. A. M. PALMER,
Founder Professional Woman's League

learning, their art and architecture, and their government. The subject for 1897 was "Europe in the Nineteenth Century." A half hour is always devoted to current topics. The annual meeting for the election of officers is held on the second Thursday in February. The duties of the new officers before October are to prepare the new programmes and have them printed ready for distribution on the last Thursday in April.

An annual luncheon is given at the close of the year, when there are toasts and responses, good music, and all that goes to make a delightful occasion.

Philanthropic Clubs of Brooklyn.—The Brooklyn Home for Consumptives was obtained and is supported by the efforts of a board of women managers, who represent forty-two Brooklyn churches.

It began with the desperate need of finding a refuge for a poor woman, a city missionary, dying of hopeless consumption, and who had been turned out of a hospital in accordance with its rule of not keeping incurable cases.

Within the first year a house was bought and remained the home for six years. Within the past five years, however, a very large and commodious building has been erected, with all modern appliances, and here the victims of the dread disease find the gradual approaches of death alleviated by every art that sympathy and skill can command. All the patients, however, do not die; favoring circumstances restore many who would otherwise come under the "incurable list." No question of race, color, or even of former character is raised in regard to applicants. Physicians, allopathic and homeopathic, work side by side, gratuitously and in perfect accord. Fifteen out of the seventy beds are permanently endowed, and a children's ward has been added, where thirty little patients are cared for.

The great success which a work has obtained, needing such unceasing care and varied as well as eminent qualities, is largely due to the president, Mrs. S. V. White, who devotes herself to the work.

The Memorial Hospital for Women and Children was started originally in 1870 as a dispensary by a few women physicians who had been refused practice in every hospital to which they had applied. It began in a tenement-house district. In 1883 an act of incorporation was secured, and a hospital building opened in 1885. From this beginning has resulted not only the Memorial Hospital for Women and Children, but the Memorial Dispensary at 811 Bedford Avenue, and also the Memorial Training School for Nurses, which is now a State institution. A flourishing dispensary is also open in the new hospital building. Three times the hospital has moved into larger houses, always inconvenient and inadequate for hospital use. The erection of a permanent building was begun in May, 1894. The center tower and north wing were completed, and the building opened on Thanksgiving Day, 1895. The completed portion includes rooms for the house staff, elevators, kitchens,

laundry, operating theatre, rooms for the training school for nurses, three private wards, eight private rooms, five general wards, and an emergency ward. The hospital will accommodate about seventy patients. The work has grown from 31 patients in 1888, including 4 surgical operations, to 285 patients in 1895, including 140 surgical operations.

The Wayside Home for released women prisoners was started in 1880 by three women, who had endeavored to befriend women in jails and penitentiaries. Where to go and what to do were the questions that confronted many of these women, and as a practical means of answering these inquiries a house was taken, which has grown into a large and most beneficent refuge for homeless but not yet hardened women. Under able management, with Mrs. Pettingill as its inspiring president, the Wayside Home became largely self-supporting, as every one who wished admission was asked these questions: "Do you want help? Are you homeless? Will you remain a month? Will you conform to the necessary rules of the house and do your share of the work?" If she entered she was on her honor and was trusted as far as she would allow. A laundry was established, the earnings amounting in the very first years to three-fourths of the home expenses.

Up to 1892 there was no Protestant reformatory in Brooklyn, but at that time the managers of the Wayside Home succeeded in realizing a hope that had been with them from the first. Until that time all Protestant women and girls committed by the magistrates for any and all offences were necessarily sent to the jail, the penitentiary, or to prison, where a moral death was almost a certainty, for the woman who is sent to either almost literally "leaves hope behind," so tirelessly are lessons in wrong-doing taught in those "schools of vice." In 1892 an act was passed which conferred upon Brooklyn courts the power, at their discretion, to commit women and girls who may be brought before them to the care of this society for a longer or a shorter period.

The Needlework Guild of America was organized originally in Philadelphia in 1885, modelled after a very large organization in England founded by Lady Wolverton. It is, of course, broad as human needs.

Its object is to furnish new, plain, suitable garments to meet the wants of hospitals and other charities. Children may become members. The duties of each member is to give each year two or more new articles of useful clothing.

The organizations of the Needlework Guild formed in the several cities are called branches, and each branch may control the distribution of its own garments. There were 5,274 garments collected in Brooklyn during the year 1896. As there are no stated meetings, except the annual one, the time and effort required for this great and good work is very small for each member. The Needlework Guild has branches all over the Union, but it has no fees, no dues, no fines.

Aid for Friendless Women was established in 1870, to furnish temporary shelter without regard to religion or nationality.

About 104,000 meals and 36,000 lodgings are furnished yearly, and the family usually averages 95—40 of these children, and the remainder women of all ages.

The expenses are borne by subscriptions and donations, except a small sum paid by the city from the excise fund. The Board of Trustees own their property, and have no debts. The work among the children is perhaps the most encouraging for the future. There is a kindergarten for the little ones, and every destitute child removed from the street is also removed from the danger of becoming a member of the criminal class.

The Round Table of Syracuse.—The Round Table was founded in 1894, although it really dates back to the beginning of Mrs. Mitchell's classes in Syracuse in 1892. The club was christened by Mrs. George D. Whedon, in whose home the members meet every Friday morning, from October until May. Mrs. Whedon is the present secretary of the club; Mrs. Ellen M. Mitchell, the president.

Mrs. Mitchell has planned and taken charge of the work of the Round Table from its beginning. The first year of its existence and part of the second were devoted to the study of Greek philosophy and literature. The club next turned their attention to the study of Dante's "Divina Commedia" and scholastic philosophy. The topics for the coming year of 1897-98 are Goethe's "Faust" and Goethe's influence upon modern thought.

The aims of the Round Table are twofold—freedom and ease in conversation, and the spiritual interpretation of philosophy, literature, art, and history. "There is in this circle an atmosphere of tolerance," says a visitor, "of genuine seeking for all that is helpful and uplifting, of readiness to give and receive of one's best, of unrestrained interchange of thought that is most enviable."

Mrs. Mitchell opens the conversation with a philosophic exposition of the theme for the day, original in the sense that it is derived from her own thinking instead of being a compendium of what others have thought. So with every member of the Round Table, the secret of her interest lies in the vitality of her own individual conviction. Hence the perfectly spontaneous yet inspiring talk that accompanies and follows Mrs. Mitchell's exposition, keeping always to the subject, yet touching upon closely allied problems of everyday life and experience.

The members of the Round Table prefer discussion to papers, believing that thereby stimulus is given to independent and vital thinking. Topics are usually assigned the week before.

The following are a few suggested by the study of Dante: Aspiration and

achievement, positive and negative faults, Dante's view of evil, distinction between vice and crime, idea of love in Dante and in Browning, power and function of imagination, symbol and reality, relation of impulse to reflection, the world created by ourselves, pantheism and theism, identity and difference, Dante's "Social Philosophy."

The Round Table joined the New York State Federation in 1897.



The Social Art Club, of Syracuse, which has celebrated its twenty-first anniversary, sprang into existence soon after the coming to Syracuse of the Woman's Congress, in 1875, and was in some sense the outgrowth of that meeting for the advancement of women.

The inception of the club was, however, due to Mrs. J. F. Durston, upon whose invitation eleven ladies met at her home and approved the plan proposed of forming a club which should pursue a systematic course of reading on art. An organization was effected, and Mrs. Mary Dana Hicks, an accomplished and capable leader, became the first president.

A course of reading on the works of the early Italian painters was decided upon, and work began at once. The club met weekly at three o'clock in the afternoon, until six, when tea was served. The leading facts of interest in the lives and works of the old masters were brought out by carefully arranged readings, by the recital of poems, and by photographic illustrations, which were not then so abundant as now. The Social Art Club had many a gem to show its members in those days, and the fortunate ones bidden to the evening reunions were often accorded the privilege of a peep at these prints. After the first year, the brilliant evening functions were discontinued, and from that time the members came together to enjoy only the literary programme of the afternoon.

In 1878 Mrs. Hicks made an extended tour of Europe, and secured for the club a collection of art illustrations. This purchase formed the nucleus of the large and choice collection of engravings and heliotypes which now adorn the walls of the rooms occupied by the club. A valuable collection of art periodicals has also accumulated among the club's possessions. Two memberships have been secured in the Arundel Society of London, which entitles the club to four copies each year of some valuable and rare works of art.



MRS. MARY D. HICKS,
First President Social Art Club,
Syracuse, N. Y.

Two years after the organization of the club Mrs. Hicks left Syracuse to take up her residence in Boston. Mrs. Mary E. Leavenworth, who now occupies the office of president, was her successor, and the years of her administration have been most profitable, bringing to bear as she does good judgment, wisdom, literary ability, and withal a genuine desire to make every meeting a help to every member. The weekly meetings have been held without interruptions, from the first Tuesday in November till the second Tuesday in April, from the date of organization to the present time, and many of the charter members still attend regularly the meetings of the club.

The secretary for many years of the Social Art Club is Mrs. Louise Van Loon Lynch, who is an integral and valued part of the entire club life of Syracuse, and the able ex-chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation. From her report in 1896 on the occasion of the twenty-first anniversary of the club's existence is quoted the following:

"During the twenty-one years of our existence as a club, our studies have been many and varied; we have considered the great masterpieces, sculpture, painting, and architecture. We have studied also, in the graphic arts, the material conditions to which the artist has conformed in the expression of his thoughts, and have also endeavored to learn something of the home life, the characteristics, the religion pictured. In our study of the industrial arts we have seen those familiar phases by which art enters intimately into the daily intercourse of men's lives. From the warp and woof of patient study and constant effort the members of the Art Club have woven a beautiful garment with sparkling threads of pleasant social intercourse, of lectures from artists and art scholars of our own and other cities; of our memorable excursion to the Art Gallery of Rochester; of our Loan Art Exhibition; of our celebration of Raphael's birthday, with tableaux vivants, representing the famous 'Hours' of the great master, and again representing some of the works of the old masters and the artists of to-day."

The regular membership is limited to forty, with an annual fee of three dollars. Associate members, not to exceed twenty, may be elected by ballot, each member to pay an annual fee of five dollars. Any regular member failing to perform the duties assigned her by the reading committee shall find a substitute or pay a fine of two dollars. Fines are also exacted for absence from meeting. There has always been a waiting list.

The celebration of the twenty-first anniversary in 1896 was an important and interesting occasion, memorable in the life of the club. The presence of the first president, Mrs. Mary Dana Hicks, brought with it the old inspiring influence, obtained through the acquisition of that "art of arts, the supreme art of living."

The Scribblers, of Buffalo.—Mrs. M. N. Laurence, delegate from the

club to the State Federation, at its annual meeting in Buffalo reported as follows:

"The Scribblers, an organization of authors and newspaper writers, was formed in November, 1893, and during its three years of existence has grown from nine to an influential body of fifty members.

"The most characteristic trait of The Scribblers is that they do not 'read papers'; they speak without notes and extemporaneously. This ability to get on one's feet and speak logically and grammatically at a minute's notice, and the drill in parliamentary law, which the members have been obliged to undergo in the conduct of their meetings, has made them unique among women's clubs. The three times president, Miss Mulligan, is a parliamentarian of the strictest sort, and though she may go out of office she will always remain in the minds and hearts of The Scribblers an ideal presiding officer.

"Perhaps the most conspicuous thing that this club has ever done is the organizing of the Western New York Federation of Women's Literary and Educational Organizations. The credit of the *idea* belongs to Mrs. Hamilton Ward, who approached the members on the subject, suggesting that this association take the initiative in the matter of forming a Western Federation. A large minority was opposed to the formation, Miss Mulligan, the president, among them; but Mrs. Ward said she represented several clubs when she asked the association to take the initiative, and her persuasion finally carried the day. Upon vote the members agreed to plan such an organization.

"In our association personalities have no place; parliamentary law permits of nothing but business. Banded together for social and intellectual benefit, The Scribblers have left their impress, even in this short while, on the press of Buffalo. Their influence in all circles is great, and keeps constantly widening like the ripples from a pebble dropped into the river."

Society for the Study of Child-Nature.—The study of the nature of the child, which can only be made by the mother, waited for the scientific development of women to obtain practical results.

The New York society was the first of the kind, and was organized in the autumn of 1888. It was the outcome of the Society for Ethical Culture, and began with three ladies, who met and discussed questions relating to the education of their children, specially the kind of stories that should be read or told to them.

In 1889 the growth of the idea was distinctly perceptible—not so much in numbers as in definiteness of method. A course of reading was planned, and the little group found such inspiration in the thoughts of the authors they studied that their work was a delight, which proved an active incentive to earnest effort.

It was the desire to share with others the advantages and benefits which these few had enjoyed that caused the society, in the autumn of 1890, to invite additions to its forces, increasing its membership to a limit of thirty-five. It was then that it first received a name—its present one—and from that time its affairs were regularly conducted, officers chosen, and records of the proceedings kept.

The first work was a review of preceding studies, and a decision as to the books and educational journals to be obtained as a suggestive basis. Questions for papers and discussions were: "Moral sense in children. Does it exist early? How can it be influenced?" "Should implicit obedience be enforced upon children?" "Use of toys." "Toys to be avoided." "The idea of property." "Distinctions in regard to property." "Falsehood from a moral aspect." "Recommendations to mothers for the keeping of journals, noting observations on the development of their children. Preyer's book, 'The Mind of the Child,' found specially valuable in making scientific observations." "The danger of a love of approbation, by drawing the child's attention to others' opinions of its actions." "Should the child be made familiar with the destruction of life? Is cruelty engendered by such knowledge?" "Should the child see death in any form?" "Study of several languages by young children." "Importance of attention to details. This to be cultivated in boys as well as in girls." "Amount of personal attention the mother should give to her child." "Punishment should be appropriate to the wrong committed and commensurate with it." "Authority of older children over younger. The feelings this authority arouses in each. Extent to which the older ones should be invested with it." "Approbation as an element of education. When should it be vouchsafed the child—when withheld?" "Discouragement of rivalry as an incentive." "Possibility and necessity of training the sympathetic impulses, and making them assist in the moral training." "Importance of impressing children with a sense of the sacredness of the body." "The moral outfit which a child should have gained at home before entering a public school."

These subjects, omitting hundreds of others equally pertinent, give an idea of the course of study pursued.

After a time scientific men began to take an interest in the researches and in the results obtained by this work. Societies in other parts of the country, or departments for child-study in connection with clubs, were formed.

The parent society gradually enlarged its boundaries and took on more of a social and club aspect, though it still retains its primary purpose and feels that it is not much more than at the threshold of its object. Its labor has been very quiet, but it is marked by absolute sincerity, and its help is now often asked for elucidation of child-problems.

The president is Mrs. Harry Hastings; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Louis Seligsberg.



Society of Political Study was founded in 1886, for the purpose of studying the science of government. The first president was Mrs. T. B. Wakeman, who occupied the chair for the first three years, and gave it most wise and educational direction.

Among the early subjects of papers and discussions were "Labor in Antiquity and the Middle Ages," "Modern Labor," and "Labor's Causes of Discontent;" "Supply and Demand;" their Influence on Prices and Wages," "Claims of Labor and its Rights," and "Rights of Capital;" "Origin and Objects of Trades Unions" and "The Effect of Trades Unions' Strikes;" "Industrial Partnership," "Coöperative Societies," and "Coöperative or Associate Stores."

The next series of studies were upon the different forms of national government in the world, and later the American constitution, and State and municipal government. The study of finance in its various phases followed, including United States banking, currency, trusts, wages, and the like.

One year was devoted to the study of South American republics, and part of 1896 was given to a thorough study of the New York State constitution, its revision, and the changes in the public school system.

The subjects for this year are the histories of the several States of the Union, taking them in the order in which they came into the Union; also a short paper is presented at each meeting on current events.

One of the interesting features of the meetings is that all of the papers are prepared by the members.

After the reading of the papers one of the members is called to the chair. The papers are then discussed, and an opportunity is given for the study of parliamentary law and practice.

The management from the beginning was invested in a council consisting of all the officers.

Meetings are held weekly from October to May. Dues are one dollar per year, and the annual reception a social event of importance.

The president for 1898 following Rev. Phebe A. Hanaford, who served



MRS. EMILY L. WAKEMAN,
Founder of Political Study Club, New York

for two preceding years, is Mrs. A. H. Gaffney, who was its corresponding secretary in 1897. Among its presidents have been Miss Theresa Barcalow, and Mrs. L. D. Blake, now the honorary president.



MRS. REV. F. H. A. HANAFORD,
Ex-President Society for Political Study,
New York

Shakespeare Clubs.—The following summary of methods of the Shakespeare Clubs in the New York State Federation is condensed from a report made by Mrs. M. R. Silsby, president of the Shakespeare Club of Seneca Falls for fourteen years, and an acknowledged Shakesperian authority:

Shakespeare Club of Gouverneur, Mrs. Woodworth, president, is entering its fifth year; its object, "mutual improvement and a united effort toward a broader social and intellectual life." It holds weekly meetings. One act of a play is read, and then each member gives in her own words the work assigned her, without notes, and later follows critical comment and a discussion. The care and thoroughness with which the work has been done and the enthusiasm maintained have made it possible for this club to accomplish much in a short time.

Stratford Club of Sing Sing charms us with "the magic of a name:"

"In Stratford-upon-Avon,
Where the silent waters flow,
The immortal Drama woke from sleep,
Three hundred years ago."

The Stratford Club has existed for five years. It meets each week during nine months of the year, and so close and conscientious is the study that only three plays are taken up in that time. Their plan is to read the portion selected, aloud, giving time for discussion on all points of interest suggested, as historical, moral, geographical, and others. According to the by-laws all must study the notes and practise reading aloud; this last is an excellent rule. The president is Miss Anna Underhill.

Shakespeare Club of Canisteo, Mrs. Emily Sutton, president, was organized in 1887. Its membership is limited to twenty, and it meets each week from October 1st to May 1st. Though the principal work has been the study of Shakespeare, with the history connected with the play, they occasionally depart from this line. One year was devoted to American literature and history. Last season they studied Goethe's "Faust," and later civil government. At

present they are engaged with Roman history and the study of Shakespeare's Roman plays. This club joined the University Extension, and has the use of a good reference library from the State. With all its devotion to study, the Shakespeare Club of Canisteo finds time for social entertainments. It celebrates its own birthday, and also April 23d—a day which by all Shakespeare Clubs "in golden letters should be set among the high tides in the calendar." The Shakespeare Club is the mother of literary clubs in Canisteo; one of which, the Monday Literary Club, is also a member of the State Federation.

"Shakespeare's Amateurs" was organized in 1889. Its members were young girls of about the age of twelve, and they began their work by reading Lamb's Tales. Their first programmes also included papers on Shakespeare's life, and the subject was illustrated by photographs of the scenes of his youth. Essays on the plays themselves, their individual merits, critical studies of the characters, sketches of the places in which the scenes are laid, and of the times which they delineate, were also used. Another institution of the club's early years was the character test. This was conducted according to the rules of that childish game at school, called "choosing sides." The name of a character from Shakespeare was given to each girl, and she was required to tell in what play it was found. The side giving the greatest number of correct answers came off the victor. The society has not confined itself exclusively to the subject for the study of which it was organized, but has made excursions into other fields. It has spent some time on American literature, and also on the Victorian age in English literature.

There are generally fifteen active members besides its absent or associate list, from each individual on which it receives at least one paper or letter during the year. Its meetings, which are conducted with regard to parliamentary law, are held once a week, and its session lasts from September to June. Altogether, since its organization seven years ago, it has accomplished a great deal of work, its members think; it has achieved much in many lines, they believe, and has been of real and enduring benefit to them individually, they feel certain. This suggests a passage in one of Mrs. Mary Cowden Clarke's articles:

"Happy is she who at eight or nine years old has a copy of Lamb's Tales from Shakespeare given to her, opening a vista of even then understandable interest and enjoyment! Happy she who at twelve or thirteen has Shakespeare's works read to her by her mother, with loving selection of fittest plays and passages! Happy they who in mature years have the good taste and good sense to read aright the pages of Shakespeare, and gather thence wholesomest lessons and choicest delights!"

The village of Cuba has an older society in the Shakespeare Club, organized 1887, and having for its president Mrs. Christina Charles, also president of the Western Federation of Literary Clubs. Since its beginning the *entire*

works of Shakespeare have been read by the members in session, and the plays a second time. Papers upon origin of plot, history of the times, character, and philosophy have been presented, showing much interest and study in the subject. One year was devoted to general study upon the evolutionary and social questions of the day; another to United States history. Diversion is made upon rugs, laces, linen, and china, but always a return to Shakespeare—"the thousand-souled." This club has issued excellent calendars, the one for 1896-97 being especially fine.

Shakespeare Society of Seneca Falls was organized in 1882, and its primary object was the study of Shakespeare and the drama. A clause in its constitution pledges it to work for a public library and reading room. During the fourteen years of its existence the plays of Shakespeare have been read and studied several times and by various methods. The cast is distributed, and two meetings devoted to the reading of the play. For the first three or four years an exhaustive list of questions was prepared—and the entire list given to each member—and several meetings were spent in answering and discussing them. This plan gave way to topics in connection with the play, such as Tradition and Folk-Lore, Law and Heraldry, Classical and Mythical Allusions, Demonology and Witchcraft, Music and Ballads, Historical References, etc.

Though so much has been written there is always "one more new word" to say about Shakespeare, and papers have been read in that society which proved to be new criticism and original in conception. Some of these appeared in *Shakespeareana Magazine* later. One on the topic, "Biblical and Religious Allusions in Richard II.," and tracing the Puritan influence, was strikingly new, even to Shakespeare scholars. Others, entitled "Prospero and the Magic of the Tempest," "Superstitions in Cymbeline," "Shakespeare's Alliteration," etc., are worthy of a permanent place in the annals of Shakespeare.

Still a different method of study is to read one act of a drama, and let all topics be chosen and assigned by the member who is the leader for that evening; this is good, as the work is shared by all. Collateral reading often followed. For example, after the study of "The Merchant of Venice," Lessing's "Nathan the Wise," another great type, was read. A study of "Love's Labor Lost," Shakespeare's protest against "idealizing away the facts of life," and showing the failure of the attempt of the King of Navarre and his young lords to circumscribe their lives with a little code of rules, was followed by a reading of Tennyson's "Princess."

Shakespeare Clubs are long lived. The Fortnightly Shakespeare Club of New York, of which Mrs. Anna Randall Diehl is president, has celebrated its twenty-third birthday; and the Shakespeare Society of Philadelphia was

founded in 1848. The study is rarely given up, and new clubs are constantly formed to undertake it. Shakespeare Clubs all devote some time to book reviews, current events, and some new voice of to-day, for the study of Shakespeare stimulates the mind, broadens and uplifts it, and gives an interest in all vital questions, but to the greatest study of all, all return with renewed zeal.

While the main object of literary study has been Shakespearean, the Seneca Falls Shakespeare Society has developed a wider sphere of usefulness. It has founded a public library and reading-room, and is in every way associated with the active intellectual life of the town.

Twelfth Night Club, of New York, is composed almost exclusively of young actresses who are among the most brilliant and socially distinguished of their profession. It was founded in 1889 by three young women—Alice Fischer, Vida Croly, and Eleanor T. Tyndale. It was at first called the "F. A. D." Club, but soon relinquished this name for the better and more appropriate one of "The Twelfth Night."

Its first entertainment was a charming "tea," given in honor of Mrs. "Madge" Kendal. The insignia of the club is an ivy leaf, with artistic



THE TWELFTH NIGHT.

GOOD FREND:

y^e ARE HEARE BY BIDDEN
TO y^e yearlie Merrie MAKING of ovre CLVB,
ON TWELFTH NIGHT, y^e SIXTH DAY of JANVARY
IN y^e yeare of ovre Lord MDCCCXCVII.
Request of Mistress y^e President.

AT y^e Berkley Lycevm. TEN of y^e clocke.
PRESENT AT y^e DOORE.

lettering in gold. Receptions given in honor of distinguished members of the profession have been a special feature of the life of the club since its beginning. It does not discriminate in favor of women, but entertains either men or women whom it chooses to honor; though only women compose the club membership.

Another distinctive social feature is the masque of the Twelfth Night



TWELFTH NIGHT, NEW YORK

VIOLA ALLEN, President

ALICE FISCHER HARCOURT, Ex-President VIDA CROLY SYDNEY, Ex-President

which is always characterized by picturesque and appropriate, often brilliant performances. The invitations are in old English.

In January, 1897, the Masque was celebrated by the performance of "A Burning Question in Elysium," portrayed by twelve of Shakespeare's heroines through twelve members of the club. The burlesque was a great success. It even delighted the *blasé* members of the profession.

"Twelfth Night" was originally the festival of the church in commemoration of the manifestation to the magi, and in the Middle Ages was celebrated by a little drama called "The Feast of the Star," in which priests played the parts.

Twelfth Night has fine rooms in the Berkeley Lyceum, and has had as presidents, Miss Eleanor T. Tyndale, Miss Selina Fetter, Mrs. Vida Croly Sydney, Mrs. Alice Fischer Harcourt, and Miss Viola Allen. It has three standing committees—philanthropic, entertainment, and library.

The Twentieth Century Club, of Buffalo, enjoys the possession of one of the finest club-houses owned by women in the United States. Its exterior is not imposing, although the picturesque style of the Italian Renaissance distinguishes it from the handsome homes that are its neighbors on Delaware Avenue. The interior, however, which combines the original club-house with an old church, which formerly stood on the site, is very beautiful and very unlike the conventional club habitation.

The Twentieth Century is also unlike most other women's clubs in its membership and methods. The original club property belonged to the Graduates' Association, which acquired an associate membership to aid in increasing a building fund. This associate membership, not "graduates," but usually women of considerable means, formed the nucleus of the Twentieth Century Club.

The entrance fee was in the beginning placed at \$500. This was reduced in time to \$100, which still renders it an exclusive organization.

The Twentieth Century Club pursues no regular line of work, but is inspired in many directions, and received very good parliamentary training from an able president, Miss Charlotte Mulligan. The work is done largely from outside by lectures and really fine musical entertainments. The social side is also very attractive. Miss Mulligan is herself a fine musician and capable teacher. Previous to the existence of the Twentieth Century Club she had devoted many years of her life to a society of workingmen of which she was the founder, and which is known as Guard of Honor. This is a religious as well as musical society. It was started in 1868, owns its own building, and derives its income from its rentals and the dues of members. It asks for no assistance, holds no fairs or public entertainments for money, and makes no public reports. It has a fine orchestra, trained by Miss Mulligan, that often plays for mission stations and the entertainments given by the Young Men's Christian Association, but never for money. The total of attendance at Guard of Honor services, concerts, and meetings for the year 1895 was 21,668.

The Guard of Honor is officered by its members, but Miss Mulligan is always its "director."

The Trained Nurses' Club and Reading Room was founded in 1894 by



TRAINED NURSES CLUB, NEW YORK CITY, RECEPTION ROOM

Mrs. M. G. Willard, "to supply a home for trained nurses when not practising their profession, to furnish a centre of social life, and to advance their interests."

Only graduate nurses and those who stand high in the profession are eligible for membership. The club-house has sleeping apartments, which are occupied exclusively by members. The reading-room contains magazines, daily papers, writing materials, and a library. The club works in coöperation with a Bureau where delicacies for the sick can be obtained.

The founder, Mrs. Willard, is the permanent president, and is a woman of rare intelligence and executive ability.

The meetings are on the first Monday afternoon of every month and the second Thursday evening of each month. The latter is for social purposes only.

An annual reception is held in December, when members invite their friends and a cordial welcome is extended.

Besides the city club-house there is a country club-home for the use of members at Tarrytown-on-the-Hudson. A stock company, in which most of the members have shares, owns the property.

The general officers consist of a president, vice-president, second vice-president, treasurer, secretary, assistant secretary, chairman of Entertainment Committee, chairman of House Committee, and librarian. President and treasurer must be directors of the club, the management being vested in them and in the directors, all of whom are elected at the annual meeting.

The membership represents a large contingent in New York and Brooklyn, Long Island, New Jersey, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Washington, D. C., Maine, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Illinois, Maryland, Canada, England, Ireland, Germany, and Switzerland.



The Woman's Health Protective Association, New York, began in the autumn of 1884, with a simple morning call made by one woman upon another in the neighborhood of Beekman Hill; a high bluff overlooking the East River, and forming a residential district of exceptional beauty.

The locality, in many respects so desirable, was so polluted with foul odors that it was impossible to keep the windows open even in the warmest weather; and the conditions which caused them became the subject of conversation. The result was a meeting by invitation of a number of the women whose homes were in the immediate vicinity, and a subsequent tour of the adjacent neighborhoods in order to discover exactly what the causes were that produced this state of things.

It was found that the region on First Avenue from

"And she chose out a good neighborhood for her son."—Chinese Proverb.

Forty-third to Forty-seventh Street was occupied by slaughter-houses—old wooden structures reeking with filth, and made up of refuse and the blood of animals, all mingling in streams in which the children of the streets revelled and played, as other children play in the grass and under green trees.

The horrors of this state of things were intensified by the use of the docks to harbor stationary scows, in which the excrement and offal were collected and kept, a perpetual threat to the health and comfort of the crowded quarter.

The report to others of what they had seen increased the number of the group to fifteen women, and it was these ladies who took the initiative in organizing, in the drawing-room of one of them, the Ladies' Health Protective Association of New York.

The first effort of the new society was against the scow nuisance. The accumulation of manure was 20,000 tons, 30 feet in height and 200 feet in length. It was maintained by a brother-in-law of a senator at Albany, who was able by political backing to defy law and decency.

The manure in its decayed state was of much more value as a fertilizer, and the revenue was largely increased by letting the stuff remain there to rot, while an entire community was made to suffer. The first step was to obtain an indictment against the owner for maintaining a public nuisance. He cared very little for this action, as he had several indictments holding over him, which had always been pigeon-holed, and he thought this one would travel the same road. But it was his first experience with women, and he did not realize what that meant. He was tried before Judge Barrett in the Court of Oyer and Terminer, and after a trial lasting for four days he was convicted, and found guilty of maintaining a public nuisance. Judge Barrett gave him thirty days in which to remove accumulation, and he was obliged to do it. Constant vigilance has been necessary since that time to prevent evasion of the law.



MRS. RALPH TRAUTMAN,
President Health Protective Association,
New York

This was the beginning of the work. On the 9th of December, 1884, a State charter was secured, and the Ladies' Health Protective Association became a recognized organization for the sanitary improvement of the city. The signers of this charter were Mathilde F. Wendt, Mary E. Trautman, Cecelia Fendler, Hedwig Wile, and Irene E. Harland.

In those days officials were very indifferent, and looked with great disfavor upon any attempt to "interfere" with their neglect of duty.

Antagonism met the women at every step, and the admission was made by the then president of the Health Board that he had neither visited nor had a report from that section of the city for six years.

The verdict obtained against the owner of the manure heaps was a great surprise, and a member of the Health Board remarked that the ladies "were not to build upon it, that it was very unusual, and they had better go home now, and not meddle any more in matters that did not concern them."

The next movement was against the slaughter-houses, which consisted of fifty-five rickety, tumbled-down wooden sheds.

The slaughtering was done in the presence of children, who stood before the doors, and became so utterly demoralized that the sight of blood was no more to them than so much running water. The walls and floors of these pens reeked with filth, and the meat, when slaughtered, was hung on large hooks over the curbstone, there to swarm with flies and catch all the dust and dirt of the neighborhood. The cattle were driven through the streets in droves, and when they reached the slaughter-houses were confined in cellars, the air of which was so stifling and fetid that the poor creatures could be seen clambering over each other in frantic efforts to reach up to the grating for a breath of fresh air. In the bone-boiling works, the odors were overpowering, and on investigation it was found that the bones were collected from the retail butchers whenever it best suited convenience regardless of whether they had remained a week or a month in the shops.

It took years of persistent and energetic work on the part of the Health Protective Association, now largely increased in numbers, and divided into legislative and other committees, to remedy this disorder. Bills brought before the Legislature were defeated, but it cost the Butchers' Association so much to do it that the president finally said, "Gentlemen, if we have to pay out all this money we may as well put it into what the women want, for it is the thing that ought to be done."

The Executive Board of the Woman's Health Protective Association was invited to meet the executive of the Butchers' Association, and the result was the system of magnificent abattoirs that now exist on the East Side, and have rescued that entire district from conditions that were a disgrace to the metropolis.

The later work was greatly helped by the installation of a new president of the New York City Health Board, Mr. Charles G. Wilson. This gentleman was not only a conscientious, but practical business man, working hard himself, and requiring thorough work from his inspectors. His aid was given at every step, and he inspired confidence to such an extent that a complaint was all that was necessary, if it was based on a real evil, to have it remedied.

The later efforts of the Health Protective Association were directed to

the odors from gas houses; the condition of the streets; the disposal of garbage; the blocking of the streets by trucks at night, and their use as a harbor for tramps; the condition of surface and elevated cars, owing to the habits of expectoration by men and boys; and other matters of detail.

Schools have occupied much time and thought, and the question of police matrons and women inspectors has received important aid and consideration.

These matters were greatly helped by the reorganization and better equipment of the street cleaning and police departments of the city. But it is not too much to say that the movement even in this direction was inspired by the practical, persistent effort, the wise judgment, and the genius for detail exercised by the Ladies' Health Protective Association.

During President Wilson's administration there was constant coöperation, and a spirit of reciprocal helpfulness exhibited between the Health Board of the city and the association. This was a marvelous change from the old days, and a great advantage on both sides. Every one who knows anything about municipal affairs knows that eternal vigilance is the price of order and decency. The Ladies' Health Protective Association finds plenty of ways in which to exercise its functions, but it has a right to satisfaction in the work it has accomplished and the respect it has won.

Eleven Health Protective Associations in other cities have grown out of the mother one in New York, all of them more or less inspired by its success, and the energetic leadership of its president, Mrs. Ralph Trautman, the vice-president for New York of the Woman's Auxiliary to the Columbian Exposition. Of these the associations of Brooklyn and Philadelphia are, perhaps, the most energetic, but the work and methods of all adopt themselves to environment, and show excellent results. They have usually preceded the formation of civic clubs, and embody more or less literary and social club features.

In 1891 a national charter was granted in the District of Columbia to the "Woman's" National Health Protective Association of the State of New York, signed by Clara Barton, Jane H. Spofford, Alice C. Fletcher, and Emily L. Sherwood, of the District of Columbia, and Margaret W. Ravenhill, Fannie I. Helmuth, and M. Louise Thomas, of the city of New York. Mrs. Mary E. Trautman, the president, Mrs. Mathilde F. Wendt, honorary president, and ten committees reported in active service.

The change from "Ladies" was made in accordance with a desire long existent, but suppressed in the beginning as a concession to the conventional spirit of the time.

Two Department Clubs.—New York State has two Department Clubs, both of which may be said to have been born full-grown. One is the New Century Club, of Utica, based largely upon the New Century Club, of Philadelphia, and the second, the "Chiropean," of Brooklyn.

The New Century Club grew almost in a night, from its beginning in 1863, to a membership of three hundred and fifty women, with a club building and nine departments, which are officered and conducted independently, but report their work to the central organization. Education, science, literature and criticism, history and government, kindergarten, current topics, household economics, and municipal reform are represented in these departments.

The Kindergarten Committee conducts a weekly class in the club-house, for fifty or more children, in kitchengarden or domestic education with volunteer teachers. It has classes in sewing, drawing, cookery, and housework, in addition to singing and calisthenics. It manages a branch of the New York Penny Provident system, and introduced the "kitchengarden" into a large orphan asylum where one afternoon weekly is spent in training sixty little waifs. There is also a weekly class for mothers with a competent teacher who leads in study of the child, and the study of Froebel's "Mother-Play." This course serves as a training class for keeping up a supply of qualified teachers.

The home department furnishes two programmes, one of these has become Reciprocity Day in the calendar.

Current Topics is a large committee having three chairmen. Each of these has her own sub-committee, and together they keep the club informed upon politics, legislative assemblies, literary and scientific matters, and the progressive news of the day.

Household Economics study and report upon the relation to municipal reform. It carried out an experiment in street cleaning for two weeks, following the work by a full statement of method and cost. A *pro rata* estimate of the cost of thorough cleaning of the whole city on this basis was also carefully prepared and published.

The founder and president of the club since its beginning is Mrs. Frances A. Goodale, formerly chairman of State correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and until 1897 a member of the Executive Committee of the New York State Federation.

Ultima Thule, of New York, was founded in 1895 through the personal effort of Mrs. Miriam Mason Greely for the sole purpose of companionship in classical study. As far as possible the work is pursued in the original language of the author studied, and a primary object is to show that Greek and Latin are not "dead," but "have only put aside flesh for immortality."

The membership is small but enthusiastic, and the work so far unique.

Women's Art Club, of New York city, is the only strictly professional club for the practice as well as the study of art in the State Federation. It was formed by the effort of Mrs. Melvil Dewey for the purpose of exhibiting representative work in painting, sculpture, and graphic arts by women and for social intercourse.

The club gives an annual exhibition of works which take high rank, and has social gatherings at its rooms, where the exhibitions are held.

The membership is composed principally of young women aspiring and ambitious, and reinforced from the classes of Mr. and Mrs. Dewey, who every year take a certain number abroad for study and practice.

Officers and standing committees are elected annually by ballot. The officers are a president, vice-president, treasurer, and secretary. These officers constitute the Executive Committee of the club. The committees are upon Exhibition, Hanging, and Entertainment.

Each member has a right to the exhibition of one of her works at the annual display. More than that lies in the discretion of the committee.

The membership was in the beginning limited to forty, and does not go far beyond that number, although the limit has been removed.

The Woman's Association for Greater Saratoga.—This association is one of the largest in the State. It is composed of upward of a thousand women, distributed in standing committees, for Civic, Social, and Literary purposes.



MISS ANNA MAXWELL JONES,
Corresponding Secretary New York State
Federation, Ex-President Greater
Saratoga, N. Y.

It was organized in 1895 for the creation and improvement of a "greater" Saratoga, and to aid the wider knowledge and development of its resources as a summer educational and literary centre.

Its first president was Miss Anna Maxwell Jones, and an active member is Mrs. McKee, daughter of Ex-President Harrison.

The association inspires and takes charge of the Flower Carnival, and works in many ways to suppress what has been obnoxious and to aid the splendid natural resources in making Saratoga the most beautiful and orderly, as it is the most healthful, summer resort in the country.

The present president is Mrs. H. H. Walworth.

The association entertained the New York State Federation at its first mid-year conference for a two days' series of meetings in July, 1896, an occasion never to be forgotten by those who shared its splendid hospitality.

Woman's Club, of Hempstead, L. I., originated in an effort on the part of Mrs. Julia M. Parsons to overcome neighborhood prejudice against women's clubs by bringing club women from New York and Brooklyn, and endeavoring to create an interest in their work by brief addresses and informal conversation.

Two years of this work was done before an organization was effected. Finally, in January, 1892, a club of seven members was organized at Mrs. Parsons's home, with Mrs. Parsons as president, and Mrs. A. D. Robinson, secretary.

Mrs. A. C. Almy, Miss Anna Clowes, and Mrs. J. W. Williams were other charter members. From this small beginning a strong and prosperous club grew, which founded and manages the Hempstead Subscription Library.

The object was to place the new publications of standard authors before the village community. It has collected a library of about two thousand volumes, maintains a librarian, and has several thousand dollars as a nucleus for a library building. The membership limit is always full, and the club has a long waiting list. Instead of the fear of losing caste it is now considered a privilege to be a member.

The Hempstead Club, although primarily a literary club, devotes attention to current events, and takes an active part in whatever is for the well-being and prosperity of the neighborhood.

When Mrs. Parsons resigned from the presidency on account of removal Mrs. Seaman was elected in her place, serving with satisfaction for two years. In May, 1897, Mrs. John Lewis Childs became president, and maintains the reputation of this active and now many-sided and prosperous organization. Mrs. Parsons is this year (1898) chairman of the Literary Committee of the State Federation.

Woman's Club, of Oneonta.—This club, organized in the spring of 1894, is a model club for a country town. It began with ninety-five members, and has grown to its limit, which is two hundred. It is both social and literary, and has classes in art, history, English literature, current topics, physical culture, music, embroidery, and parliamentary law. There is also a cooking class, which has, perhaps, been the most popular of them all. The club dues are five dollars per year, and the income is expended upon five large rooms in a central part of the town, comfortably furnished, and with a grand piano. There is a literary and musical programme given once in each month, and once every month an "afternoon tea," from 3 to 5 P.M.

The club received its first inspiration from a young Syracuse woman, and afterward met and further discussed plans with Mrs. George Baird, a Vassar graduate. Among the women present was Mrs. Ida Bugbee, a graduate of St.



MRS. JULIA M. PARSONS,
Founder of Woman's Club of Hempstead,
L. I., N. Y.

Lawrence University, who was made chairman of the meeting and afterward president of the club.

"The work from the beginning has been delightful," said the club dele-



COUNTRY CLUB-HOUSE, FOR WOMAN'S CLUB IN ONEONTA

gate at the Buffalo convention of the State Federation, "but not altruistic. We cannot afford to be altruistic. You wonder why. Because you in large cities have your libraries, art galleries, the drama, the opera, the college, the musical conservatory; everything which fills your atmosphere with learning and culture. All you have to do is to breathe and you get all of this nourishment you need to keep you abreast with the times; while we in the country, what do we

breathe? oxygen and nitrogen. Whatever our atmosphere contains of education and culture we have to manufacture and put there ourselves. We women," she continued, "are brought up to aid something or other whether we know or care anything about it or not. We are brought up on church and missionary societies, and are expected to take care of the charities. The club furnished the only opportunity to learn something of what we wanted to know and do



CORNER IN WOMAN'S CLUB OF ONEONTA

something for our own improvement. This may in time be as good for others as working for them directly in ways not always understood or useful even to the beneficiaries."

Woman's Club of Richmond County was inspired by the work done in art and literature for exhibition at the World's Fair. Although that committee disbanded certain members of it realized as never before what organization could do for women, and a woman's club, starting with seventy-five members, was the result.

Its early work was social, literary, and civic. It had a course of lectures on architecture, on parliamentary law, and incidental talks, music, and discussions by its own members.

The Literary Department took up the study of American history and literature and secured the use of one of the State travelling libraries.

The Civic Committee found employment for needy men in woodyards and aided needy women by a day nursery and an "old-clothes bureau." It also investigated the water supply and the condition of the county jails, improving both, and distributed fruit and flowers in the hospitals.

Richmond County consists of the whole of Staten Island, and is almost a State by itself, with distinctive features.

One of the social functions of the club was a reception given to Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin when she visited New York in 1895.

It is a member of both State and General Federations and is always represented by delegate at the conventions. The first president was Mrs. Macdonald. The second president, Mrs. E. S. Anable, who is well known in connection with philanthropic work. Its membership is now one hundred and ten and it works under three standing committees—literature, philanthropy, and social economics. Mrs. E. S. Anable, of New Brighton, remains the president.

Woman's Educational Union, of Albany, was started in February, 1888, as the result of an address by Miss Kate Stoneman, president of the Albany Teacher's Relief Association upon the advantages of an organized educational center.

Forty women were gathered in an informal way, but without constitution or stated plan of work. The meetings were held monthly, and the study of Russian literature taken up in somewhat desultory fashion; and later, more serious work attempted in the study of American colonial and revolutionary times.

In May, 1889, a report of the convention of women's clubs held by Sorosis was read before the membership by one who had attended the meetings. This inspired a desire for systematic work. A committee was appointed to draft a constitution and plan of study. The constitution was modelled upon that of Sorosis; meetings were arranged semi-monthly, and committees appointed in history, philosophy, science, art, literature, hygiene, philanthropy, and archæology.

"Studies in the civilizations of the ancients," writes the historian, "brought the questions and problems of modern life strongly home to thoughtful women. The civilization of to-day is fast approaching the point at which the old civilizations began to decline.

"May not the organized woman of to-day arrest that tendency, and help to bring about that future when the knowledge of God shall cover the earth as the waters cover the sea, and when the lion and the lamb shall lie down together?

"This seemed to be presaged by the first convention of clubs, and upon these lines the Albany Woman's Educational Union has worked."

The Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, of Buffalo, was the second formed in the United States, and was the outgrowth of a course of lectures given by Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz in the winter of 1887 in that city. The organization was effected on the fifth day of February of that year, but the Act of Incorporation is dated the fifteenth day of May, and its objects stated to be "to increase fellowship among women, in order to promote the best practical methods for securing their educational, industrial, and social advancement. Also, by the establishment of a reading-room and library, by maintaining a registry for the higher employments of women, by organizing and maintaining classes in educational and industrial branches, by assisting poor women to collect debts and to establish their legal rights, by assisting the worthy poor, by giving courses of lectures on various topics and social entertainments, by the establishment of a gymnasium for women."

The first recorded list of officers were: President, Mrs. Harriet A. Townsend; first vice-president, Mrs. Benjamin H. Williams; second vice-president, Mrs. A. Altman; third vice-president, Mrs. James Mooney; recording secretary, Miss Hattie Caldwell; corresponding secretary, Miss A. M. Letchworth; treasurer, Mrs. Henry Rumrill.

The membership was at once divided into ten standing committees: Educational, Protective, Employment, Hygiene and Physical Culture, Philanthropy, Domestic Training, Kitchengarden, Library, Finance, and Social Affairs.

The management was vested in thirty-six directors, twelve of whom were retired annually. In the first address the president, Mrs. Harriet A. Townsend, quotes Charles Kingsley as saying, "Let me ask women to educate themselves, not for their own sakes merely, but for the sake of others, for whether they will or not they must educate others." These words strike the keynote of the reason for the existence of a "Women's Educational Union."

At the close of these two first years the membership of the union had grown to 838 women, and a home was secured in Niagara Square by purchase. The acquisition of more space made extension of work possible. A domestic training department was added, and a gymnasium equipped and put in the hands of an expert teacher.

Twelve thousand dollars was raised by one entertainment, and by March, 1887, all indebtedness cancelled except a mortgage. The Protective Committee of that year acted upon the claims of 144 wronged women, and succeeded in having a police matron appointed by the Police Board.

The work from this time forward exhibited steady and almost phenomenal growth.

In 1889 the Employment Bureau found, without charge, positions for twelve hundred women, and collected for friendless women over \$6,000.

By another entertainment the fifth anniversary of the union was celebrated by the payment in full of the mortgage on the home and its freedom from all indebtedness.

Through the efforts of the union acts were passed in the State Legislature for the better protection of women in almshouses, and for the appointment of women trustees on the Board of the State Insane Asylum.

The work of adding to the number of police matrons was also carried forward, and stations assigned to which women offenders should be taken and put under a police matron's care.

On November 4, 1889, a letter was sent by the president of the union to fifty-seven superintendents of insane hospitals and asylums, asking whether they employed women physicians, and whether they would approve of women physicians being put in charge of their own sex. Forty-six answers from thirty-two different States were received, and of these thirty-three were favorable, five opposed, five non-committal, and three not prejudiced.

The matter was presented to and approved by the Board of Directors January 7, 1890, and the president was authorized to prepare the bill. The bill was presented in the Assembly by the Hon. William F. Sheehan, and in the Senate by the Hon. John Laughlin, January 14th.

On March 27th the bill passed the Assembly with only two negative votes, and April 16th it passed the Senate with a record of twenty-six to three. Signed by the governor April 27th, the bill providing for the appointment of a woman physician to serve on the medical staff of State Insane Hospitals and Asylums in the State of New York became a law.

May, 1891, closed the seventh year of the union's life. So much practical work had been accomplished that the respect and coöperation of the very best class of citizens throughout Buffalo had been won, and the great need of a building spacious enough to carry on the constantly increasing work of every department was anxiously discussed, and met with ready response from generous friends. A gift from Mrs. Esther A. Glenny of \$10,000 for a "Union" Hall; a second gift from Mrs. Charlotte A. Watson of \$5,000 for an addition to the Domestic Training Department; and a promise of the interest of \$5,000 from the vice-president, Mrs. Porter Norton, to sustain the same, decided the trustees to practically construct a new building fitted to their needs.

The city charter of that year made provision for the appointment of a school examiner, and upon the application of the officers of the union a woman eminently fitted for the position, the first choice of the union from its army of strong workers, Mrs. Lily Lord Tifft, was appointed, and has served ever since with the greatest satisfaction to the Board of Education and the public.

During that year also the union published an abstract of the laws of New York State affecting the right and property of women, compiled by Mrs. Mary L. Rice. So clearly and concisely are the laws stated that the little pamphlet has won the highest praise from the legal fraternity. This abstract called the



WOMAN'S EDUCATIONAL AND INDUSTRIAL UNION, DELAWARE AVENUE, BUFFALO

attention of the department to the injustice of the guardianship law of New York State, and in December it was voted to recommend to the Board of Directors that a bill be moved at once, making husband and wife equal guardians of their children. The bill was prepared by Mr. Frank M. Loomis,

presented in the Assembly by Hon. Edward Gallagher and in the Senate by Hon. J. A. Cantor, passed both houses without a negative vote, and was signed by Governor Flower March 22d.

Space does not admit of the record of work by each of the committees—the thousands of women and girls cared for, protected, and educated; homes secured, the aged provided for, and the friendless dead given Christian burial.

Not an unimportant part of the work has been the time given to visitors from every part of the United States and also from foreign countries, with a view to the initiation of some organization of the kind in their own neighborhood.

In 1894 the number of departments had increased to fifteen. Training classes in every department were in active operation, and the course of instruction so thorough that it could be applied as means of self-support.

During this year the spacious new building was completed. The union joined the State Federation of Women's Clubs and invited it to hold its second annual convention in Buffalo as its guest. All the meetings of this great gathering of the women's clubs of the Empire State were held in the new home of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, which was opened October 29th of that year.

Early in 1895 two new departures were made in the line of organization from among the members of the union. One was the formation of the Civic Club by the Educational Committee, with a membership of about one hundred, a board of officers, a motto, "Information before reformation," and the special object of awakening "an interest in matters pertaining to our municipal affairs and to foster all movements within the circle of its influence which have for their end the improvement of any phase of civil life."

The officers elected were: Mrs. Lily Lord Tifft, president; Mrs. Charles Kennedy, vice-president; Mrs. Frank Ferguson, secretary and treasurer; with Mrs. George Wing, Mrs. N. P. Benedict, and the chairman of the Educational Committee as members of the Executive Committee.

The second organization grew out of the free classes and is called the Girls' Union Circle.

In September, 1895, the Noon Rest was established in the interest of this body of girls. This supplies well-prepared food in a pleasant lunch room at very low prices. No article of food costs more than five cents; and tea, coffee, several kinds of fruit, and the like, only two cents. The room is crowded daily, and special effort is made to give a healthful and homelike character to the surroundings.

The growth of the Union Clubs has been remarkable. The Civic Club began, and has carried on a system of tenement-house inspection; and in the

Girls' Union Circle, class work and club work have been found to supplement each other with the best results.

The kitchengarden has been one of the most useful of the departments of the union. Sixteen volunteer teachers are employed in this department, and when the girls are graduated, at fourteen, they are competent for all the work of the household, except cooking. To acquire this art they are transferred to the domestic training department, if they desire, and by the time they have completed its course are competent cooks. The sewing division trains not only seamstresses, but dressmakers; and the classes in languages, music, voice culture, and the like furnish a better equipment than is obtained at some expensive schools.

The Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, of Buffalo, is now the possessor of a magnificent building, fitted to its wants, free from debt, and the center of a constant stream of vital influence for the uplifting of every part of the community. It is the pride of the city; its inspiration, and the leader from the beginning has been Mrs. Harriet A. Townsend, aided by a steadfast band of earnest co-workers.

Mrs. Townsend is on the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and the president of the Literary Club of the Church of the Messiah.

There are now twelve of these "Unions" in different cities of the United States, five in New York State alone. They have been fitly designated as "Motherhood outside the home."

Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, of Rochester, was organized in April, 1893, with 137 charter members. The philanthropic work of the city was already so effectively provided for that the Woman's Union directed its efforts mainly on educational, civic, and protective lines.

One of the founders, and the only president up to the year 1897, is Mrs. W. H. Montgomery, elected president of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs and Societies at the Buffalo convention in 1896.

The Educational Committee, of which Mrs. H. B. Hooker is chairman, has fifty members, many of them trained educators. It pursues original methods. It conducts personal correspondence with leading educators all over the country, keeps in touch with advanced educational thought, and uses its influence to promote these methods in Rochester. Monthly meetings are held when such topics are discussed, and plans for usefulness formulated. A sub-committee visits the public schools regularly, its object being to keep in touch with the schools, to become acquainted with our educational system, and to bring about a closer and more friendly relation between teacher and patron. The committee has maintained a very successful series of talks to mothers on home interests—hygiene, food, nursing, etc. It has conducted a series of evenings

with authors for working girls, and monthly coteries, with music and lectures, for the whole union, and distinguished educators from various parts of the United States have lectured in Rochester under its auspices. The committee maintained a very successful sewing-school in the summer of 1894, demonstrating that sewing was not only feasible, but there was a demand for it in the Rochester schools. The object of the union, as defined in its constitution, is "to increase fellowship among women, in order to promote the best practical methods for securing their educational, industrial, and social advancement."

The union maintains a working girls' club, known as the Guild of the Woman's Union. It has very pleasant rooms in the Watson House—as the union's headquarters are known—where study classes, talks on various subjects are held, and social evenings enjoyed. The Guild gives a Christmas dinner, followed by a tree for poor children. The Civic Art Committee, under the leadership of Mrs. E. H. Hall, have submitted a series of prize questions to the young people of Rochester on the natural, architectural, and possible beauties of the city. Through the kindness of the Reynolds' Library the union is soon to inaugurate the home library system in Rochester. Under its auspices Mrs. Mumford, a member of the Philadelphia Board of Education, and Miss Kirby, assistant superintendent of schools in Philadelphia, described the practical workings of manual training in their city; Miss Shapleigh, late of Hull House, described the New England Diet Kitchen; Miss Lucy Wheelock, the eminent kindergartner, of Boston, and Miss Brown, of Buffalo, lectured upon free kindergartens; Miss Katharine Davis, who had charge of the Workingman's Home at Chicago, described that work. Lectures have also been given by Frank D. Rice, the eminent educator, and Hon. Carroll D. Wright, Ex-United States Labor Commissioner; all these were free. This winter the union hopes to introduce J. Stanley Hall to the people of Rochester.

In 1895 a largely attended course of twenty weekly lectures was maintained for the benefit of members, a small fee being charged to outsiders. These were by eminent local talent, Mrs. Montgomery giving each alternate lecture on live current topics, such as the Venezuelan and Armenian questions, rights of Cuba, etc. Other lectures were upon "Ceramic Art," "Art in Modest Houses," the "Aladdin Oven" (food and nutrition), "Bacteria in the Household," "The Sanitation of Rochester," "Laws of New York that Affect the Rights and Property of Women."

The Legal Protection Committee, under the chairmanship of Mrs. Oscar Craig, is doing quiet but very helpful work. A number of young lawyers donate their services to the committee, while older men of eminent legal talent act as advisory council. During the hard winter of 1893 and 1894, before the passage of the bill termed Anti-Shark Bill, many pitiful chattel mortgage cases,

which were beyond reach of the law, were brought before the committee, and relief obtained through moral suasion and fear of public opinion.

For nearly two years the Philanthropic Committee, under the leadership of Miss Marion Wright, conducted a "Noon Rest," which was popular and successful. Some seventeen thousand meals were served. Stimulated by this example similar accommodations have been afforded by other agencies, and the union has suspended this branch of its work.

Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, of Syracuse. This organization began in May, 1885. It follows in many ways the lines of work pursued by other associations of the same name and kind, but it has some departments peculiarly its own. One of these is a day nursery for the benefit of laboring women, the attendance at which in 1895 was 2,388 little ones.

It supports, also, a free kindergarten, a sewing class for one hundred little girls, and classes in cookery, which in 1896 the union introduced into the grammar schools.

The classes in domestic training are under the instruction of a graduate of Pratt Institute, of Brooklyn. There are also educational, library, and protective committees, and others connected with the finances and domestic management. Affiliated with the union is the Employment Society, one of the oldest charities in the city, giving sewing and small wages every week during the winter to more than two hundred poor women and offering them the garments they have made at the cost of the material.

Another society linked with the union is the Working Women's Club, an association of nearly four hundred members, formed, says its president, "among busy women and girls to secure by coöperation means of self-improvement at small cost, opportunities for social intercourse, and the development of high and noble aims." It is a proud boast that with the coöperation of the Employment Society and the Working Women's Club the union can offer protection, encouragement, and assistance to women of every age, of every class, of every creed, from the cradle to the grave.

The starting point of the union was its day nursery, and it opened in 1885 with one baby, and was called "Women's Union for Home Work." In November of the same year, Mrs. Abby Morton Diaz, of Boston, who has laid so many of these foundations, lectured in Syracuse, and the society then decided to change its name, and link itself with the great body of organizations existing for a similar purpose.

Twice the union has outgrown its quarters, and to the present building have been added a hall seating more than three hundred persons, a gymnasium, a house and school kitchen, a kindergarten room, and several sleeping-rooms. The building is said to be "chiefly remarkable for its ugliness, but the interior is moderately pleasant and convenient, and from Monday morning till Satur-

day night it is filled to overflowing with busy workers, Catholics, Hebrews, Protestants, and those professing no especial creed, meeting continually in harmonious emulation as to who shall do most and best toward carrying out the avowed purpose of the union, 'the physical, mental, and spiritual improvement of women and of children.'"



MRS. L. VAN LOON LYNCH,
President Woman's Educational and Industrial
Union, Syracuse

The membership is about six hundred. The Board of Management is composed of twenty-one members, consisting of the officers, chairmen of standing committees, and an advisory council of six women. Each committee has charge of one department.

The president of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union is Mrs. Louise Van Loon Lynch, who is also one of the Board of Direction of the General Federation, and secretary of the Social Art Club of Syracuse.

Woman's Health Protective Association, of Brooklyn.—When this association was organized in 1890 it had not to face the stringent conditions of its older New York sister. There was undoubtedly enough of reason for its existence, but its efforts became at once more general and varied; it took on the form and function of the civic club rather than the aggressive attitude toward specific conditions which vitalized the New York association in its early stages.

In a report made by the president, Mrs. James Scrimgeour, before the New York State Federation at Buffalo, it was stated:

"The Woman's Health Protective Association was organized in the year 1890 for the purpose of arousing women to a realization of their municipal obligation, and of suggesting that women as well as men have part and lot in the welfare of a community, and are to a certain degree responsible for its fair fame. We have endeavored to thoroughly acquaint ourselves with the laws and ordinances which govern our municipality, and by precept and example the members of our association seek to establish a respect for those which are wholesome and just in their tendency, and also urge the enactment of others which shall have for their object more rigid regulations concerning those things which promote order and cleanliness on our streets and in our public conveyances. We have not been called upon to do great things, but our mission for the most part has been to magnify the greatness of small things, and by patient and steady pursuance of our aim to so uplift the tone of public sentiment that dirt, disorder, and disease shall find scant foothold in our

city. Early in our career we found that habits of indifference on the part of the adult population were our most formidable enemies, and that the soil for seed-sowing was the mind of the little child, if effort was to be permanently available. Practical work was accomplished by having green boxes for waste placed upon the street corners, in forbidding expectoration upon the street cars, and in endeavoring to secure the coöperation of merchants to prevent the scattering of paper and excelsior from delivery wagons. The most important work of the Municipal Committee, of which Mrs. Andrew J. Perry is the chairman, is the endeavor to secure the coöperation of the municipal authorities in the disposal of garbage by cremation."

The early work was slow, as educational work must be; but now women in Brooklyn are fully alive to its importance, and in 1895 three neighborhood branches of the Woman's Health Protective Association were formed—the Greenpoint Branch, Mrs. Lewis Francis, president; the South Brooklyn Branch, Mrs. Thomas Congdon, president; and the Twelfth Street Branch, Mrs. J. Hoagland, president. These local groups are based upon the same principle as the parent organization and labor for the same end, but their methods of work differ according to the needs of the various sections of the city.

The work of the Legal Committee, Mrs. Charles Brush, chairman, has been most valuable. The principal aim has been to keep the directors informed in regard to city ordinances and their application to the line of work of the association; to give reports of the weekly sessions of the Common Council, the decisions of the mayor, whether by veto or approval, and the purport of bills affecting Brooklyn pending at Albany. The information thus brought before the board has directed the work of committees, and been a feature of the monthly meetings.

In February, 1895, a great public meeting was called under the auspices of the association to consider the question of disposal of garbage. A special committee on this subject secured Dr. Thomas N. Manly and Dr. Douglas H. Stewart, of New York, members of the Sanitary Commission under Mayor Gilroy, as speakers at the public meeting of the association held in February. The testimony of these physicians as to the unhealthfulness of the present system of disposing of garbage by the cities of New York and Brooklyn, and the facts given regarding the superiority of European cities in this respect, and of some American cities, notably Pittsburg and Allegheny, confirmed the opinion that cremation is the most effective and economical method of disposing of garbage, and the only healthful way of getting rid of household refuse. At this meeting the association formally pledged itself to use every effort to enlist the citizens of Brooklyn in this method of purifying the city.

The latest, perhaps most important, work of all, and original with this association, is the organization of a Children's Aid Association, under the auspices

of a committee of which Mrs. J. M. Hart is chairman. This has meetings and officers of its own, and a stirring association song which the members sing to the tune of "Yankee Doodle." The Children's Aid is doing a great work and laying the foundation of good citizenship.

The "Health Protective," of Brooklyn, is fully mindful of its obligations. It united with other leading clubs in sending to the mayor a petition to have women appointed to the Board of Education, and with all friends of education in Brooklyn rejoiced over the success of the effort. It assisted in forming the State Federation of Women's Clubs and Societies, and its president is a vice-president of this great body. The officers are: President, Mrs. Scrimgeour; vice-president, Mrs. A. J. Perry; secretary, Dr. F. W. Oakey; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. Johnson, Jr.; treasurer, Mr. A. H. Wagner.

The Urban Club, of Brooklyn, is a daughter of the Health Protective Association; formed in 1894 through the effort of its senior director, Mrs. A. J. Perry. The object was to stimulate local patriotism, and educate the members in the science of municipal government. A clearly defined course of study was carefully planned, and has been closely followed with a view to learning what influences women have brought to bear in all ages and countries.

In the study of historical women Queen Esther, Ruth, Deborah the Ruler, Semiramis and Dido, Aspasia, Zenobia, Xanthippe, Cleopatra, Hypatia, Queen Philippa, Maria Theresa, Duchess Amelia of Weimar, and others have been discussed in papers by the members.

Current topics for presentation and debate have included the income tax, trades unions and strikes, public schools, the bond issue, the Monroe Doctrine and its application to the Venezuelan controversy, the Raines' law, consolidation with Greater New York, penal institutions, etc. At the evening gatherings, to which guests of both sexes are invited, economics and sociology have been discoursed upon by most able men and women. A social hour follows, and tea is served by the Hospitality Committee.

A course in parliamentary law has brought the membership of the Urban up to date in methods. At a recent evening gathering at the home of the secretary for 1897, Miss Edith Simis, a notable address was made by a woman member of the State Legislature in Colorado, Mrs. ———, who described the simplicity of the working of the equal suffrage law in that State, and the ease and naturalness with which her nomination was made and election secured, without expenditure or trouble on her part.

The president of the club for 1897 was Miss Alice Mackay. The membership is about fifty.

Woman's Club, of Port Jefferson, had its origin in the interest excited in the minds of Mrs. A. T. Saxton and Mrs. E. L. Bayles by the formation of the Woman's Club at Hempstead. On the second of February, 1892, a num-

ber of ladies were invited to meet in the parlors of Mrs. Bayles for the avowed purpose of organizing a literary and social club.

Mrs. A. T. Saxton was appointed chairman and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Thoman J. Ritch, Jr.; vice-president, Mrs. Almer T. Saxton; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. Emma L. Bayles; and an executive committee.

At the next meeting it was decided that the name should be Thursday Club, of Port Jefferson, and a constitution and by-laws were framed and adopted. During the year the membership increased from six to eleven, and has never been more than twenty. Port Jefferson is in a somewhat remote part of Long Island; and its club is therefore isolated from others, and has less opportunity for neighborhood club intercourse. It has, however, done most honorable work, not only in a literary and social way, but for the public benefit. For several years it has furnished a first-class course of lectures and concerts for the village, and these are now considered indispensable to its life. Its membership, though small compared with larger clubs, embraces the best literary and social elements of the place.



Woman's Press Club, of New York, started with an invitation sent out by Mrs. Croly, in November, 1889, to forty of the active young women upon the city press to meet at her house, and consider the advisability of forming a Woman's Press Club.

The response was gratifying, and on November 19th an organization was effected and a provisional constitution adopted.

The main object was to provide facilities for the cultivation of companionship and a spirit of *esprit du corps* in the profession, and maintain rooms for the use and benefit of the members.

A clause of the constitution provided for the creation of a Provident Fund to be permanently employed for active members who were sick or disabled.

The literary features were considered secondary to the social and beneficiary, and it was only by the most natural process of evolution that they grew to their present importance.

Its early life was migratory. Its work, incidental. The first question discussed was, "Should Newspaper Women Marry? and, if so, Should They Marry Newspaper Men?"

The first reception was given in honor of its first honorary member, Mrs. Nicholson, of New Orleans, the editor and proprietor of the *New Orleans Picayune*. Its first home consisted of the rooms on Union Square, occupied by the *Woman's Cycle*, but two removals occurred before it became

established in larger quarters on Twenty-third Street. During all this time, a period of five years, it had its "own" rooms, and had acquired through gift and purchase comfortable furnishings.

Two Saturday afternoons in the month were devoted to club meetings, at one of which tea, sandwiches, and cake were furnished, and every member allowed to bring one guest.

Gradually the literary side of the work began to assume importance. The Entertainment Committee, which at first had charge of the programmes, musical and literary as well as social, took its place as one of a number, and standing committees were formed upon Literature and Journalism, Art, Progress, Current Events, Education and Citizenship, and Legal Aid to Young Writers.

For several years past the monthly programmes, which are more in the form of a symposium than a question for debate, have not been surpassed in interest by those of any club known to the historian.

The membership has gradually changed something of its character, though the professional element is largely in the majority. The reason for this is the fluctuating character of the press element in a great city, its frequent change of locality, and the fact that its constituent parts are largely made up of new arrivals, who have not yet acquired *esprit du corps* and have no knowledge of the underlying purpose of club organization.

Of course this is only true of a floating and somewhat untrained element. But there are others who feel that independent work can be better done by being detached from all affiliation with organizations, and still others, loyal, faithful souls, who feel bound to help wherever help is needed, whose position is of their own making and not dependent upon fear or favor.

Since 1895 the meetings of the Press Club have been held in the Chapter Room of Carnegie Hall. Here the Saturday afternoon teas are given from October to July. With the growth of the club from its membership of fifty-two to nearly two hundred, more space was required than could be found upon a "floor." For three years also its annual entertainment has taken the form of a valentine party, the last one of which was attended by upward of four hundred members and guests. On these occasions the *menu* and programme present the choicest features of the season, gastronomic, musical, and literary. All the valentines are original, and many of them illustrated, quite a number of the members being writers who illustrate their own books or published articles.



FOR "TEAS."

Among the members are presidents and ex-presidents of the New York State Federation, Sorosis, Professional Woman's League, Society

for Political Study, Post-Parliament, Motley Club, and others. Some of its earliest members were "Eliza Archard" Conner, Miss M. M. Monachesi, Miss L. F. Krausey, Mrs. S. Brauenlich, Miss Lucy C. Benedict, Mrs. Helen Campbell, Eleanor Kirk Ames, "Helen Gardiner," "Grace Greenwood," Mary E. Bryan, Cynthia Westover Alden, Eliza Putnam Heaton, Mrs. H. H. Cahoon, Miss Mary Springer, and many others hardly less known. All these are still on its list. Miss Mary F. Seymoure, its first chairman of Executive Committee, was removed by death, and some of its early and valued members by removal to other cities. Among the later members are Miss Mary Couthouy Smith, author of the prize poem for the World's Fair in Chicago, 1893; Mrs. I. C. Chandler, Miss Gertrude Lynch, and many others of the bright young professional authors and artists of the day in a membership which is composed of artists, editors, reporters, sketch-writers, historians, poets, novelists, students, lawyers, doctors, teachers, newspaper correspondents, and women who sympathize in these pursuits. All are grouped under "active," "associate," and "corresponding."

The dues are five dollars per annum, with one dollar additional as a contribution toward the expense of the teas.

The Press Club was incorporated in November, 1893, and is a member of both State and National Federations. It is also a member of the International League of Press Clubs, and one of its members, Mrs. H. H. Cahoon, is a member of its Executive Committee.

The government of the Press Club is vested in a governing board composed of all the officers, including the chairmen of standing committees. Admission to membership rests with this board, application being first made to the Executive Committee.

The officers of the club are: President, Mrs. Croly; honorary vice-presidents, Mrs. Esther Herrman, Mrs. S. J. Lippincott ("Grace Greenwood"), and Mrs. Mary E. Bryan; vice-presidents, Mrs. M. W. Ravenhill, Mrs. Alice Maddock, Rev. P. A. Hanaford, Mrs. F. I. Helmuth; recording secretary, Mrs. Mary Coffin Johnson; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Isabel Hodgson; treasurer, Mrs. M. E. Faulkner; auditor, Mrs. K. G. Foote; chairman of Executive Committee, Anna Warren Story; hostess, Countess Anna de Montaigu; chairman Reception Committee, Mrs. Caroline M. Moarse; chairman Committee on Literature and Journalism, Mrs. Gertrude Eastman Perkins; "Progress," Mrs. Letitia Cornell; "Current Topics," Mrs. Margaret



MRS. S. J. LIPPINCOTT,
"Grace Greenwood,"
Woman's Press Club, New York

Lemon; Entertainment, Mademoiselle Corradi, *officier d' l'Academie*; Aid to Young Writers, Miss Edith Reiffert; Education and Citizenship, Mrs. Clarence Burns. Among the honorary members are Madame Isabelle Bogelt, Paris, France; Mrs. Frederick P. Bellamy and Rev. Antoinette Brown Blackwell.

Miss Helen Winslow, of Boston, is a corresponding member, and there are others in Syracuse, Washington, D. C., and at Stratford-on-Avon, in England.

Another member resident in England is Mrs. Catherine Weed Ward, editor of the *Photogram*, and a granddaughter of Thurlow Weed, the "father" of American journalism.

There are many social events in the Press Club besides its monthly "teas," which are an institution, and its "valentine" dinners. The last meeting in June is usually an outdoor *fête*, at the residence of a member, and it has had some notable entertainments offered for its benefit.

The insignia consists of a circle of violet enamel with "Woman's Press Club" in gold lettering upon the violet surface, a gold quill pen and lighted torch crossed upon the hollow of the ring, and extending beyond it. In the centre are the letters "N. Y." in white enamel. The circle signifies Unity; the torch and pen, Light and Liberty. The symbol therefore stands for Light, Liberty, Unity. The club colors are gold, white, and violet.

The one great desire and ambition of the Woman's Press Club is to establish a club home, which shall be a centre of usefulness, and furnish a bureau of information in regard to women's professional work, and professional workers.



The Women Teachers' Association, of Buffalo, is the only organization of the kind in the United States which owns and occupies its own club-house.

The association was founded in September, 1889, largely through the effort of the late Miss Mary A. Ripley, for many years principal of the boys' department of the Buffalo High School. In 1893 the organization became incorporated under the laws of New York, and in 1895 it bought the "Chapter House" in Johnson Park, from the Graduates' Association.

Every woman teacher in the public schools of Buffalo may become a member of the Women Teachers' Association by subscribing to its simple constitution and paying the small annual fee of two dollars. There has never been an initiation fee or an assessment of any kind for the association in general. Since the purchase of the Chapter House all members share equally in its privileges whether they have money invested in the project or not. This democratic way of managing the affairs of the association has resulted in keeping all members interested in its welfare and ready to support any scheme designed to advance its financial standing.

The association now numbers over nine hundred members, all women. It is a woman's enterprise throughout, men only enjoying the hospitality of the club-house as invited guests.

The association has paid to all who advanced money for the purchase of the property annual interest at five per cent. Of the original amount advanced more than \$3,000 was repaid by the first year's earnings through rents and entertainments. The house, which is beautiful, without display or ostentation, has in the meantime been thoroughly overhauled and redecorated.

A popular feature of the association has been the management of lecture courses. So far three courses have been successfully carried out—one on general science, one on physiology and its allied sciences, and the third on Italian art. These courses have netted a handsome sum.

In the spring of 1896 this association aided most materially in securing the passage of an act by the State Legislature creating a Teachers' Retirement Fund, for the benefit of the teachers in the public schools of Buffalo.

Meetings for the transaction of business and the study and discussion of purely professional questions are held on the third Monday of each month. These gatherings are greatly valued, and the "Round Table Talks" are always interesting and profitable.

Every Saturday from 4 to 6 P.M. the Chapter House is open to members for tea, music, or talks on questions of general interest. At the holiday season, including St. Valentine's and Halloween, characteristic entertainments are given to members and their friends.

The association has had but two presidents. Miss Adelaide Graybiel served for the first two years, since which time Dr. Ida C. Bender has been annually reelected as the presiding officer of the association.

An important outgrowth was organized in 1891, in a Women Teachers' Mutual Benefit Association, which was shortly placed on an independent footing.

The work of the year 1897 included "Aims and Methods of Child's Study," the "Cardinal Principles of the Kindergarten," a "Comparative View of Herbert, Pestalozzi, and Froebel," "The City Training Class," and "The Notable Contributions of the Year to the Literary Education."

The themes for the Round Tables are most suggestive, and show that the original purpose of this association has been well sustained; this purpose, as declared in the Act of Incorporation, to be, "To promote the welfare of the public schools, to cultivate a spirit of sympathy and good will among the teachers, to improve the character of the work done in the schools, to develop the abilities and resources of individual members, and to create in the community at large a deeper sense of the dignity of the teacher's profession and the importance of the interests which they represent." It was

signed by Ida C. Bender, Sara M. Hinson, Nella R. Benedict, Eliza B. McGowan, Margaret Finnegan, Rosetta Close, Ellen Kennedy, Isabelle McKenna, and Elizabeth Nelson.

One of the most valuable contributions to the second annual meeting of the New York State Federation, which was held in Buffalo, was the address of Dr. Ida C. Bender upon "The Teaching of Science in the Public Schools." The Women Teachers' Association was one of the hostesses of the occasion.

The Watertown Woman's Club was organized in 1894, largely through the influence of its first and only president, Mrs. Alice M. Silsbie. During the first year of its existence it joined the General and State Federations, and the membership, limited to one hundred and fifty, became by 1896 two hundred active women.

The avowed aim is "to stimulate literary effort, and promote the social life of the members." This is aided in three ways. First, by "home talent" afternoons, the literary exercises of which are sustained entirely by the members. Secondly, by classes in current events, parliamentary law, and scientific cookery, which may be changed to others as needs arise. Third, by lectures on special subjects from competent or distinguished persons outside of the club. Miss Harriet Hosmer, the sculptor, was one of the most successful, and excited great interest. The club gave to her its first large reception, and made her an honorary member.

Once a year a reception or a musical entertainment is given, to which gentlemen are invited.

The club colors are rose pink and pale green. The flowers, pink rose and maidenhair fern.

Miss Charlotte A. Fitch is the Federation secretary.

Westchester Woman's Club, of Mount Vernon, was founded on November 20, 1894. In response to a call from Mrs. L. A. McLean twenty-five ladies met in her parlors and listened to a statement of the plan of the Ebell Society, of California, and to decide if it were desirable to follow upon the same lines in forming an organization for Westchester County. A conversation upon the methods of other clubs followed, and it was finally agreed, upon Mrs. M. F. Gay's motion, that a society be formed for mutual culture that should, in its varying aspects, be a "woman's club." Officers were elected, the fees set at two dollars for entrance and twenty-five cents monthly dues. The number of charter members was limited to fifty in order to determine best how to lay foundations for the future.

At the second meeting a Committee on Constitution and a Board of Managers were elected. The discussion of the first question, "Why am I here?" was opened by Mrs. McLean with the reading of the first sections of the constitution of the Middlesex Woman's Club: "To form a centre for social cul-

ture;" "to further the education of women;" "to encourage all movements for the betterment of society;" "to foster a generous public spirit." This seemed to touch the sense of all present, and suddenly differences of desire and aim melted, and then crystallized around these ideas. Amid much enthusiasm the Committee on Constitution was advised to embody them as the object of the club. The name was proposed by Mrs. Mary D. Sherman, and adopted.

Sections were formed in accordance with the expressed preferences of the members, and thus seven departments sprang into being: Sociology, Art, Science, History, Literature, Education, and Hospitality.

The first list of officers included: President, Mrs. Martha F. Gay; first vice-president, Mrs. Leslie A. McLean; second vice-president, Mrs. Harriet M. Rathbun; recording secretary, Mrs. Susy E. Wood; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mary D. Sherman; treasurer, Mrs. J. T. Robb.

Foundations being laid, the club membership was extended. It was decided to hold meetings throughout the year, the open meetings to be purely social. The first of the summer entertainments was *al fresco* by invitation of the Literature Section.

The Sociologic Section has already done some excellent work under the chairmanship of Mrs. Tichenor. It has petitioned the Common Council to restrain violations and enforce laws. It has visited public schools and the meetings of the Board of Education, and been instrumental in having kindergarten departments introduced into the public schools. It is working toward securing a better supply of water and a proper inspection of the milk.

The club has taken steps toward the foundation of a public library, and obtained subscriptions for the purchase of five hundred volumes, which were handed over to the trustees of the library, which has now been formed.

The work in Greek history and ancient sculpture has been of a very high character; the syllabus of the course compiled from the lectures of Professor Lorado Taft, of the University of Chicago.

The present officers are: Mrs. Estelle R. McVicker, president; Mrs. Emma C. Davis, corresponding secretary.

The membership is now 112. The entrance fee has been raised to five dollars, and the annual dues to five dollars; and the club is now a power in the community.

"X. L. M." Club of New York. This club is the natural and necessary outgrowth of the aid to Little Mothers, founded by Mrs. Alma Calder Johnston, being composed of the same young girls, who, after having had the care of their homes and the younger children during their own childhood, have now reached the wage-earning period. Being no longer able to share the summer-day outings, the winter festivals, or join the cooking classes provided for the Little Mothers, they are kept in the influence and tutelage of their

benevolent association by means of this club, the title signifying the Ex-Little Mother.

Organized in 1894, its membership has already quadrupled and is limited only by the difficulty in obtaining instructors and entertainers for its evening



MRS. ALMA CALDER JOHNSTON,
President "X. L. M." Club, New York

meetings. To add to the interest and increase the unity of the club a secret password, hand-clasp, and hailing sign is imparted, and the following pledge taken: "I do solemnly and sincerely promise in the presence of my Creator, the Searcher of all hearts, who knows my every thought, who gives me every joy and keeps me by His love, that I will do all the good I can, that I will always speak the truth, that I will never take nor allow myself to desire to take anything belonging to another person; that I will not speak ill of any person, nor use any wicked or vulgar words, nor stay in the company of any who do; that I will be faithful to the interests of those who employ me, doing unto them as I wish them to do to me. I do also promise that I will always conduct myself in a modest, gentle, kindly manner, neither doing nor saying

anything that will create unhappiness or discord in our club."

NEW YORK STATE FEDERATION OF WOMAN'S CLUBS AND SOCIETIES



The plan of a State Federation for New York was presented to the Executive Committee of Sorosis in February, 1894. The committee adopted it unanimously, and the club indorsed it, authorizing the formation of a Committee on State Federation, composed of the ladies forming the Executive Committee, with the proposer of the plan as chairman, but deciding on the postponement of the purpose, in view of an approaching election and the summer recess of all the clubs which would so soon follow after.

The "Call" was issued, therefore, for November 19th and 20th.

On the first date mentioned 118 delegates assembled at Sherry's, Mrs. F. I. Helmuth, president of Sorosis, in the chair.

The committee to whom the preliminary work had been confided consisted of the following members: Mrs. F. I. Helmuth, Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier, Mrs.

E. L. Demorest, Mrs. C. J. Higley, Mrs. S. E. Youmans, Mrs. A. W. Fuller, Mrs. M. K. Clarke, Mrs. Mary Dame Hall, Mrs. M. D. Doane; Mrs. J. C. Croly, chairman.

The address of welcome was made by Mrs. Helmuth, who said: "We have asked you to meet with us to consider the measures necessary for the consummation of a project for the formation of a great State organization of women, whose interest in their different lines of work would be aided and improved by the interchange of thought and the mutual consideration of their aims and ends. With this object in view we propose that the work of this Federation shall unite and classify organizations on as many different lines of work as is practicable, so that every interest may find a place, and every object a congenial atmosphere."

This was followed by the reading of the "Call" and remarks on the value and necessity of State Federation by Mrs. Croly, honorary president of Sorosis and chairman of the State Federation Committee. Mrs. Croly said:

"The question whether State Federations shall be formed has answered itself; they have been formed in Maine, Massachusetts, Iowa, Kansas, and Missouri; Michigan, Ohio, Kentucky, and New Jersey have all responded to the demand for a State Union on a federated club basis that can establish relations with local clubs, and aid them in ways not possible to so large a body as the General Federation. Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Connecticut, and other States have announced an intention of establishing local federations in the very near future, and the Empire State must not lag behind in taking the further steps in this onward progress."

Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier made an address upon "Educational Work as Related to Women's Clubs," and was followed by Mrs. E. D. Clymer, whose remarks were a brief summary of the work done by Sorosis in the formation of the General Federation, and said: "That organization has now grown so large that it is thought necessary to form a State Federation, in order to find adequate representation for local clubs. Mrs. Croly's plan of organizing in groups makes it possible for us to increase the scope of the work and include other organizations than Women's Clubs, whose aims and objects are practically the same, and whose work tends toward a similar goal." Mrs. J. A. Goodale, chairman of New York State Correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and president of New Century Club of Utica, spoke earnestly of the advantages of State Federation, and encouraging remarks were also made by Mrs. M. E. Mumford, then vice-president of the General Federation, whose presence was felt as a special privilege.

Expressions of opinion were then called for and given by Mrs. Russell Sage, Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, Mrs. Scrimgeour, Mrs. H. H. Backus, and Mrs. A. J. Perry, all of Brooklyn; Mrs. J. R. Parsons, Mrs. J. K. Dunn, and Mrs.

Goodridge, of Long Island; Mrs. C. S. Silsby, Miss Avery, Miss M. Carpenter, Mrs. Danforth, and Mrs. C. D. Hoole, of Western New York; and Mrs. F. T. Low, Mrs. Clark Bell, Mrs. E. E. Kidder, and others, of New York city.

There was no dissent from the universal sentiment that New York should have a State Federation, and Mrs. Lozier voiced the general sentiment in a motion that a State Federation be formed.

This was adopted unanimously, and the meeting adjourned for a reception given by Dr. and Mrs. Helmuth at their home on Madison Avenue.

The conference met promptly on the morning of November 20th at 10.30 A.M., for the purpose of organization. Mrs. F. I. Helmuth was invited to remain in the chair, and Mrs. Maude Clarke appointed secretary. The roll of delegates was called, when 125 representatives answered to their names.

A committee on enrollment was ordered, and the following ladies consented to serve: Mrs. A. M. Palmer, chairman; Mrs. Macdonald, Richmond County, S. I.; Mrs. Norman Mack, Buffalo.

A Committee on Constitution and By-laws was appointed, consisting of Mrs. H. H. Backus, chairman, Brooklyn; Mrs. J. A. Goodale, Utica; Mrs. J. K. Dunn, Jamaica; Mrs. Kate Upson Clark, New York; Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier, New York.

A nominating committee was also formed, consisting of Mrs. J. M. Leeper, Mrs. Low, Mrs. Trautman, Mrs. Hubbell, and Mrs. Silsby.

Questions concerning the formation of "groups" elicited the explanation from Mrs. Croly that these would be a work of time, that they were intended for unification and classification, and would form allied forces inside the larger body.

Brief reports from clubs were then called for, and a number responded, representing almost every interest in the organized work of women.

An adjournment was made for luncheon tendered by Sorosis to delegates and visiting club members.

The convention reassembled at 2 P.M., when the report of the enrollment committee was called for, and submitted the list of clubs as charter members of the Federation.

The nominating committee reported through its chairman two tickets for the entire list of officers. The balloting resulted as follows: President, Mrs. J. C. Croly, New York; vice-president, Mrs. E. D. Clymer, New York; recording secretary, Mrs. F. D. Vose, Utica; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Allen C. Washington, Brooklyn; treasurer, Mrs. John McCullough, New York; auditor, Mrs. Mary F. Warner, Rochester; Executive Board—Mrs. F. I. Helmuth, New York; Mrs. A. M. Palmer, New York; Mrs. H. H. Backus, Brooklyn; Mrs. Gowinlock, Warsaw; Mrs. H. M. Buck, Buffalo; Miss Avery, Albany; Mrs. Scrimgeour, Brooklyn; Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier, New York.

The newly elected officers made pleasant acknowledgment of the honor done them and their desire to serve the federation movement.

The Committee on Constitution and By-laws through its chairman, Mrs. H. H. Backus, reported amendments upon the original form as offered, and these were presented seriatim and adopted provisionally by the delegates present.

The first three articles provided that:

"This association shall be called the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs and Societies."

"Its object shall be to bring into relations of mutual helpfulness the various clubs and organizations of women throughout the State."

"Within the Federation may be recognized groups, consisting of kindred societies, organized for allied aims, such as literary, educational, scientific, professional, industrial, reformatory, philanthropic, municipal, and village improvement."

The first act of the newly elected president was to recommend affiliation of the State with the General Federation. This was effected, on motion of Mrs. Helmuth, by unanimous vote.

Sorosis Carol Club, composed of twelve members with Mrs. William Demorest as leader, rendered in fine style several musical selections.

A hearty vote of thanks was extended to Sorosis by delegates for hospitality during their sojourn in New York; to Mrs. Helmuth for delightful reception; and to Mrs. Palmer for her theatre party of two hundred members and delegates on Tuesday evening.

The convention then adjourned, subject to call of the Board of Directors.

At a meeting of the Board immediately after adjournment a sub-committee was authorized to issue the provisional constitution and by-laws in printed form for distribution among the clubs, to admit new clubs on presentation of proper credentials, and perform such other routine business as might be deemed necessary for the welfare of the State Federation.

An invitation was received from Brooklyn clubs to hold the first annual convention under their auspices in November, 1895. This was cordially accepted.

The first social event of the State Federation was in February, 1895, less than four months after its formation, when Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president of the General Federation, being in New York, was complimented by a state reception given her at the Waldorf.

Upward of five hundred women of the Greater New York clubs and from neighboring towns assembled to do honor to the beloved leader.

The Reception Committee was formed of presidents of Brooklyn, New York, and Staten Island clubs, who assisted in receiving the guests and brought

the loyal greetings of many well-known organizations to the first lady of the great body of the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Mrs. Henrotin made a brief but witty address, and charmed all who saw and heard her.

The State president signalized the occasion by presenting to Mrs. Henrotin a fine wreath of laurel tied with laurel green, the color of the Federation. The laurel wreath completes the insignia of the State Federation, which otherwise consists of the State coat of arms, with laurel wreath in place of the globe, and the eagle.

From this reception Mrs. Henrotin and the officers of the State Federation were taken to dine with Mrs. Croly at her home, adjourning later for a theatre party of federated members on the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. A. M. Palmer.

The fitting prelude of this State Federation day was furnished by Mrs. Helmuth, who invited the presidents of twenty-four clubs to meet Mrs. Henrotin at luncheon at her home on February 24th.

Five executive sessions were held during the year and the following committees formed: Education, Mrs. H. H. Backus, chairman; Town and Village Improvements, Mrs. Goodridge, Long Island, chairman; State Laws Affecting Women and Children, Rev. Phebe A. Hanaford, chairman. The final session was an all-day meeting of the entire board at the home of the president.

On this occasion Mrs. H. H. Backus presented the following as a formula for the general subject to be discussed at the first annual convention: "The Education of Public Sentiment as Effected and Contemplated by Women's Clubs and Societies." This was adopted without change.

The first annual convention was held in Brooklyn, November 20 and 21, 1895, upon the invitation of twenty-one clubs (extended through Mrs. Backus, of the Brooklyn Woman's Club, and Mrs. Scrimgeour, of the Brooklyn Health Protective Association), in the Young Women's Christian Association building. The general subject discussed by the convention was, "The Education of Public Sentiment as Effected and Contemplated by Women's Clubs and Societies," under the following divisions: "Collegiate Education," Mrs. H. H. Backus; "Industrial Education," Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier; "The Needs of the Public Schools," Mrs. Alice Rich Northrup; "Kindergarten Work," Mrs. Alice Chadwick; "Collegiate Education," Mrs. M. M. Greely.

Mrs. Mariana Chapman, president of the Brooklyn Woman's Club, welcomed the assemblage, and was responded to by Mrs. Croly.

The reports of the secretaries were read and accepted. The whole number of clubs was given at 99, increased to 101 before the convention closed. The report of the treasurer showed a balance of \$260.97 in the treasury.

Mrs. Goodale, of Utica, chairman of State Correspondence for General Federation of Women's Clubs, presented a report. Mrs. Goodale made four

divisions of the clubs in the State Federation, namely, the literary or egotistic, the partly literary and partly helpful to others, the half altruistic, and the wholly altruistic. By the egotistic clubs she meant those which devote all their time to their own improvement and have nothing to do with outside philanthropic work.

This classification was objected to by Mrs. Clymer and others, who thought helpfulness did not always consist in so-called "charity." Mrs. Goodale accepted the correction, and the report was adopted.

A grouped report of town and village improvement clubs was made by Mrs. J. M. Parsons, Long Island, and an interesting one of the municipal work in Brooklyn by Mrs. E. M. Scrimgeour, president of the Brooklyn Health Protective Association.

The nominating committee was formed from the floor, the chair waiving its right to the naming of two of the members.

The committee consisted of the following delegates: Mrs. Charles D. Freeman, of the Woman's Club of Staten Island; Mrs. Hamilton Ward, president of the Allegany County Federation; Mrs. Amelia K. Wing, of the Brooklyn Woman's Club; Mrs. Catherine Dunn, Jamaica Woman's Club; Mrs. Benjamin Estes, president of the Colonia Club of Brooklyn.

The afternoon was occupied by the papers enumerated above. "Industrial Education" was omitted owing to the absence of Mrs. J. de la M. Lozier, detained by illness. Her place was taken by Mrs. E. D. Clymer, who read a paper on the "History of the Club Movement."

On the evening of November 20th a brilliant reception was given by the clubs of Brooklyn to guests and delegates in the parlors of the Young Women's Christian Association building, in which the Brooklyn Woman's Club has its home. The rooms were beautifully decorated with palms, flowers, and flags. A large number of prominent men as well as women, were present, and the evening was one of rare social enjoyment.

The hospitality of Brooklyn was otherwise shown in luncheons served to delegates, and the opening of Pratt Institute for the closing meeting of the Federation, and its inspection by invitation of the president, Mr. Charles Pratt, at the close of the sessions.

The morning of the 21st was given to reports of local clubs.

Mrs. Louis A. Bull gave a short historical report of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union of Buffalo. The Rev. Phebe A. Hanaford spoke on "Legislation Affecting the Interests of Women and Children;" and Mrs. J. M. Leeper on "Political Study Clubs." Additional reports were given by Mrs. Hamilton Ward, of the Allegany County Federation; Dr. H. Keating, of the Alumnæ of the New York Medical College; Mrs. Russell Sage, of the Emma Willard Association; Mrs. Alexander, of Post-Parliament; Mrs. A. R.

Northrup, of the Associate Alumnæ of Normal College; Mrs. Taylor, from the Froebel Society of Brooklyn; Mrs. E. J. Hastings, Society for Study of Child Nature; Mrs. J. J. Amory, Vassar Students' Aid Society; Mrs. Hoole, Mount Holyoke Alumnæ Association; Mrs. Fred Truslow, Friday Afternoon Club; Mrs. John Creevey, Wheaton Seminary Club; Miss A. Bierck, Packer Collegiate Alumnæ; Miss Sarah Colton, Brooklyn Heights Association; Mrs. C. H. Russell, Eastern Association, Wells College; Mrs. E. H. Walworth, Art and Science Club, Saratoga, also of Post-Parliament; Mrs. Newman, Haarlem Philharmonic Society; Miss Anna Maxwell Jones, president of Greater Saratoga, and from the Associate Alumnæ of Adelphi Academy.

Mrs. A. K. Wing made the report for the nominating committee. The result was as follows: President, Mrs. Croly, New York; vice-president, Mrs.

Ella Dietz-Clymer, New York; recording secretary, Mrs. Lily Lord Tift, Buffalo; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. G. Chapin, New York; treasurer, Mrs. Silsby, Seneca Falls; auditor, Mrs. Warner, Rochester.

Executive Committee: Mrs. M. W. Chapman, Brooklyn; Mrs. Hamilton Ward, Belmont, Allegany County; Mrs. Russell Sage, New York; Mrs. Harriet A. Townsend, Buffalo; Mrs. Julia Parsons, Hempstead; Mrs. Maude Humphrey, Warsaw; Mrs. Atwell, Albany; Mrs. Harriet Y. Danforth, Dunkirk; Mrs. Alice Northrup, Yonkers.

By invitation of Mrs. Helen Hardin Walworth, of the Art and Field Club, of Saratoga, a summer session of the State Federation was provided for at that renowned watering place, which was subsequently ratified by the Association for Greater Saratoga through its president, Miss Anna M. Jones.

The Thursday evening meeting at Pratt Institute closed the sessions of the first annual convention. A cordial address of welcome was given by Mr. Charles Pratt, and responded to by the president of the State Federation. A number of the officers including the chairman of State correspondence, Mrs. Goodale, occupied the platform.

Miss C. B. Weeks, registrar, described the work of the Institute, and Miss M. W. Avery, of the State Library, at Albany, gave by invitation a suggestive



MRS. J. C. CROLY,
First President and Honorary President New York
State Federation

paper showing its work for University Extension, and Study Clubs, in the initiation of the Travelling Library system.

Miss Avery recommended that a "Correspondence Bureau" be formed under State Federation auspices in connection with the Travelling Library work to furnish information and, when needed, outlines for study. This was subsequently effected, with Mrs. F. H. Hess as chairman.

At the close of the exercises the audience adjourned to examine "this world in miniature of modern industries which cover almost every branch of mental and technical activity," where over four thousand students are fitting themselves for their life work, under hundreds of the best instructors. The final "salt" was prepared and served in the shape of a little collation by the cooking department, at the order of the hospitable head of the institute.

The summer session at Saratoga Springs convened July 7th and 8th, with a majority attendance of officers and very satisfactory number of delegates. Two charming days repaid every one for the journey. The session, of two meetings only, was held in the ballroom of Congress Hall, by courtesy of the manager, opening at 10 A.M., closing about 2 P.M. each day. The general topic for this meeting was "Town and Village Improvement," Miss Anna Maxwell Jones, President of Greater Saratoga, being the inspiring spirit of the gathering.

The papers given and discussed during the session were, "Historic Saratoga," Mrs. Mary S. Lockwood, Washington, D. C.; "The Movement to Make a National Reservation of the Springs of Saratoga," Miss Augusta P. Wiggins; "Art and Science in Summer Clubs," Mrs. Ellen H. Walworth; "Emma Willard and the Troy Female Seminary," Mrs. Russell Sage, New York; "Educational and Industrial Unions," Mrs. Harriet A. Townsend, Buffalo; and reports by the following: The Greater Saratoga, Miss Jones; The Professional Woman's League of New York City, Mrs. A. M. Palmer; The Good Citizen's League, Flushing, Mrs. Goodridge; Ladies' Health Protective Association, New York, Mrs. Trautman; Brooklyn Memorial Hospital and State School for Nurses, Mrs. G. H. Burtis; Village Improvement Clubs, Mrs. M. R. Silsby, Seneca Falls; Allegany County Federation, Mrs. Hamilton Ward, Belmont; Post-Parliament Club, New York, Miss Anne Rhodes; Gouverneur Shakespeare Club, Mrs. Lydia E. Woodworth; The Woman's Club of Richmond County, Mrs. L. C. Thompson; Brooklyn Council of Working Girls' Clubs, Mrs. Peckham.

On Tuesday evening the officers and delegates were given an opportunity to meet the citizens and distinguished guests at a large reception in the hotel, where charming women and men met them cordially, and music, both instrumental and vocal, made time pass too quickly for those who had to face duty with the early morning hours.

The second annual congress of the New York State Federation convened in Buffalo, at the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, as the guest of nine clubs of that city, on November 10, 1896. The report showed that the number of clubs had more than doubled during the two years of federate existence, and now numbered 185 clubs and associations.

During the convention five additional clubs presented themselves and were cordially welcomed into the Federation. The congress opened November 10th, with a hearty welcome from Mrs. Harriet Austin Townsend, president of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, responded to by Mrs. Croly. The keynote of this congress was Literature and Literary Work. Prepared addresses or papers were given by the following members of the Federation, to the pleasure and profit of large audiences:

"The New Study of History as Represented by the Daughters of the Revolution and Other Patriotic Societies," Mrs. Horace King, Brooklyn. "Systematic Preservation of Historical Material," Mrs. Alice Morse Earle, Brooklyn. "Nature and Value of the Local Federation, and its Relation to the Larger Body, either State or General," Mrs. Frederick Lyon Charles, Cuba. "Comparative Study of Literature," Mrs. William A. Montgomery, Rochester. "The Teaching of Science in the Public Schools," Dr. Bender, Buffalo. "The Department Club in Theory and in Practice," Mrs. F. A. Goodale, Utica. "Scientific Study of Philanthropy," Miss Mary S. Cutler, Albany. "Classical Studies," Mrs. M. M. Greely, of New York.

The following grouped reports of kindred clubs were presented by the writers: Report of the Literary Clubs of the Federation, Mrs. H. C. Wait, New York. The Philanthropic Associations of Brooklyn, Mrs. Estes. Report of Educational Clubs of the Federation, Mrs. Edwin Atwell, New York. Hospital and Medical Guilds, Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, New York. The Parliamentary Clubs, Mrs. Ellen H. Walworth. The Shakespeare Clubs, Mrs. M. R. Silsby, Seneca Falls. The Tourists Clubs, Mrs. Samuel H. Bradley, Olean. The Professional Clubs, Mrs. Lucia C. Balcram, A.M., New York. The President of "Greater Saratoga," Miss Anna Maxwell Jones, who also represented The Travellers at Home Club, The Field Club, and The Saratoga Woman's Club. Mrs. Louisa Van Loon Lynch, of Syracuse, chairman of State Correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, gave a "Greeting from the General Federation to her Brilliant Young Daughter;" and Mrs. M. G. Willard, president of the Metropolitan Club for Trained Nurses, New York, spoke for that organization.

The report of Mrs. F. H. Hess, chairman of the Bureau of Correspondence, was very interesting. Short reports were given from the clubs not included in the grouped reports: Nineteenth Century Club, Haverstraw; Literary Club of Dunkirk, Mrs. Bookstaver; Associate Alumnæ Normal College of

New York, Mrs. Alice Rich Northrup; Twelve Years' Work of the Ladies' Health Protective Association, Mrs. Trautman, New York; Long Island Chapter, Daughters of the Revolution, Mrs. Alice Morse Earle (Regent), Brooklyn; Allegany County Federation of Women's Literary Clubs and Societies, Mrs. Ward. Country clubs were represented by a fine report from the Women's Club of Oneonta; Household Economics, by the Housekeepers' Association, of Syracuse; and Working Girls' Clubs, by the Working Girl's Club of Buffalo. Tuesday afternoon the reports were given of the local clubs who were co-hostesses with the Women's Union during the congress; The Graduates' Association, The Women Teachers' Association, The Highland Park Club, The Literary Club of the Church of the Messiah, The Monday Class, The Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, The Scribblers, The Investigating Club, and The Friends.

Local reports were made by the representatives of forty clubs in three-minute addresses full of diversified interest. The following ticket, reported by the nominating committee, was duly elected: President, Mrs. William A. Montgomery, Rochester; vice-president, Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, New York; recording secretary, Miss N. S. Heacock, Ilion; corresponding secretary, Mrs. F. J. Tanner, Groton; treasurer, Mrs. Maude S. Humphrey, Warsaw; Directors—Mrs. J. J. Amory, New York; Dr. Amelia Earle Trant, Buffalo; Mrs. Frances A. Goodale, Utica; Mrs. Andrew J. Perry, Brooklyn; Mrs. Charles M. Dow, Jamestown; Mrs. H. B. Hooker, Rochester; Mrs. Clarence Seward, Auburn; Miss Myrtilla Avery, Albany. Acting upon the wish of the Federation, the secretary cast their vote for auditor for Mrs. William C. Gowinlock, of Warsaw. After the result of the election was announced, Mrs. Craigie, of Brooklyn, suggested that the leading spirit in forming clubs and federations, Mrs. J. C. Croly, should at this convention be made the honorary president for life of the New York State Federation. This motion was seconded, and carried unanimously.

The social side was not entirely neglected while this "feast of reason" was progressing daily in Union Hall. Luncheons and dinners, drives and receptions, were tendered to the guests. The "hostess clubs" entertained all the delegates and visitors at luncheon in the Union Domestic Science Rooms, on the 10th; and gave also a large reception for them the evening of the 11th, in the Union Club Rooms. There were many residents outside of the nine entertaining clubs, who wished the Federation were arriving instead of departing on the 13th, when all had to say good-bye to what had been a delightful experience.

A few weeks later a great shock came in the sudden death of the treasurer, Mrs. Maude S. Humphrey, of Warsaw. By this sad event the Federation lost a steadfast friend and the Board of Officers a valuable member.

The work of the third year was somewhat interrupted by the severe and protracted illness of the gifted president, Mrs. William A. Montgomery. The preparations, however, for the third annual congress, held in Syracuse by invitation of the Syracuse clubs, found an efficient leader in Mrs. Louise Van Loon Lynch, chairman of State correspondence and president of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union.

The Programme Committee (appointed at executive meeting in January)—Mrs. William A. Montgomery, chairman; Mrs. F. A. Goodale, New Century Club, Utica; Mrs. E. M. Mitchell, Round Table, Syracuse; Mrs. A. M. Earle, Regent Daughters of the American Revolution, Brooklyn; Mrs. E. U. Hall, Woman's Educational and Industrial Society, Rochester; Miss Eliza McDonald, Good Citizenship League, Flushing; Mrs. Henry Hastings, Society for Study of Child Nature, New York; Mrs. Lucien Howe, Vassar Students' Aid Society, Buffalo; Mrs. T. H. Newman, Haarlem Philharmonic Society of New York.

The Local Committee was composed as follows: Mrs. H. C. Leavenworth, president Social Art Club; Mrs. William A. Nodine, president Household Economic Association; Mrs. J. W. Allis, president Wednesday Club; Mrs. H. L. Elsner, president Syracuse Branch Jewish Women's Club; Miss V. L. Jones, president Working Women's Club; Mrs. Thomas Emery, president Ka-na-te-nah Club; Mrs. L. S. Dodge, president Home Literary Club; Mrs. J. U. Truesdell, president Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals, Women's Auxiliary; Mrs. E. M. Mitchell, president Round Table; Mrs. E. H. Merrill, president Mothers' Club; Mrs. D. H. Bruce, president Syracuse Needlework Guild; Mrs. L. Van L. Lynch, president Woman's Educational and Industrial Union.

Committee on Credentials—chairman, Mrs. M. U. Northrup, treasurer New York State Federation; Mrs. F. H. Tanner, corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. S. Jenney, Mrs. Belden.

Committee on Transportation—Mrs. E. U. Merrill, chairman.

Committee on Luncheon—Mrs. William H. Nodine, chairman.

Committee on Club Exhibit—Mrs. M. G. Leavenworth, chairman.

Committee on Decoration—Mrs. H. C. Cowl, chairman.

Press Committee—Mrs. M. H. Welch, chairman for the State; Mrs. E. M. Mitchell, for local work.

Announcement Committee—Miss J. C. Chapin, chairman.

The first session of the third annual convention was held in the hall of the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, Syracuse, on Wednesday morning, November 10th, the vice-president, Mrs. William Tod Helmuth, in the chair.

The assembly was called to order at 10 A.M., and the time for the presen-

tation of credentials having been too short, the report of the committee was postponed.

Mrs. Van Loon Lynch gave the address of welcome on behalf of the city clubs, to which Mrs. Helmuth responded.

The report of the Programme Committee, made by its chairman, Mrs. Ellen M. Mitchell, was accepted, and the song of "Welcome," words and music composed by Mrs. A. C. Maltby, was sung by Mrs. C. E. Crouse, of Syracuse.

The reports of the secretaries and treasurer were approved, and invitations read from the Ka-na-te-nah Club to an afternoon reception, also to visit the public schools, the city library, and a fine local flower show. The second business session, November 11th, was opened by the vice-president, Mrs. Helmuth, and the report of the Educational Committee, presented by its chairman, Dr. Amelia E. Trant, of Buffalo.

Mrs. Alice Rich Northrup, chairman of the Revision Committee of the constitution, presented its report, with amendments, which were discussed seriatim and occupied the rest of the day.

The amended constitution and by-laws were finally adopted.

The object, as stated in the revised constitution, "shall be to bring into relations of mutual helpfulness the various clubs and organizations of women throughout the State, in order that they may compare methods of study and work, and make combined action possible on measures that all can indorse."

The provision by which an officer could be elected for two consecutive terms was changed, and only one term allowed for any officer or member of the Executive Board.

On Friday morning the work began by the reading of section reports. These included the Educational Clubs, the Literary and Civics Departments, and the Libraries.

A nominating committee was formed with Mrs. M. W. Chapman, of Brooklyn, as chairman, who reported the following ticket: For president, Mrs. William Tod Helmuth; vice-president, Miss Eliza McDonald, Long Island; recording secretary, Mrs. F. Churchill, Wellsville; corresponding secretary, Miss Anna M. Jones, Saratoga; auditor, Mrs. William Gowinlock, Warsaw.



MRS. F. I. HELMUTH,
President New York State Federation, New York

The Executive Committee elected is composed as follows: Dr. Ida C. Bender, Buffalo; Mrs. Mary T. Leavenworth; Mrs. Alice Morse Earle, Brooklyn; Miss Marion Carpenter, Ilion; Mrs. Mary Dame Hall, New York; Dr. Mary I. Denton, Buffalo; Mrs. L. J. Aldrich; Miss Caroline Hills.

Further reports were made by the Æsthetics section, and a paper on "Practical Æsthetics" given by Mrs. J. T. Alling. Mrs. Helen H. Walworth excited much interest by a parliamentary drill.

The following clubs were added to the Federation during the third year: Monday Art Club, Middletown; The Fortnightly, Little Falls; The Lydia F. Wadleigh Association, New York; The Century Club, Amsterdam; Tuesday Club, Yonkers; Bay Ridge Reading Club, Bay Ridge; Pros-

pect Club, Brooklyn; Philomathic, Camden; Fort Greene Chapter, D. A. R., Brooklyn; Woman's Auxiliary to the Civil Service Reform Association, New York; Woman's Club of Oyster Bay; Westchester Woman's Club, Mount Vernon; Rochester Section of National Council of Jewish Women, Rochester; Alumnae Association of Ingham University of New York and Brooklyn; Mount Hope Literary Society, High Bridge Road, Fordham, New York; New York Household Economic Association, New York; Ka-na-te-nah Club, Syracuse; Mothers' Club; Woman's Auxiliary to Central New York Society for Prevention of Cruelty to Animals; Botany Club; The Home Literary Club; Social Art Club; Woman's Educational and Industrial Union; Working Woman's Club; The Round Table.



MRS. LILY LORD TIFTT,
Ex-Recording Secretary and Historian
New York State Federation

This brings the whole number of clubs to upward of two hundred, with a membership of more than twenty-five thousand.

The chairman of the Educational Committee is Dr. Amelia Earle Trant, of Buffalo, and the chairman of the Library Committee is Miss Myrtilla Avery, of the State Library, Albany.

Seed-germs for stimulating thought lie thickly sown in the phenomenal growth of three short years. To-day the New York State Federation is numerically the largest of the State Federations, and is laboring to give better direction to the education of its boys and girls, and a more human and homelike aspect to the institutional life of its dependent children.

Women are sharing freely much more than their money—their gifts of intellect and acquirement. Everywhere the loving, helpful spirit which the

clubs have developed finds expression. The experiments of thirty years ago have become the corner-stones of to-day. Let us not forget the beginnings nor the labors that made possible the grand results of which we are so proud. But while working for still greater things voice, with all our hearts, the wishes of "Tiny Tim:" "God bless us, every one!"

Seventeen clubs of Greater New York sent an invitation to the General Federation to meet in New York city as their guest in 1898. These included the Alumnae Associations of the Normal College, St. Mary's, The Van Norman Institute, The Vassar Aid, The Packer Institute; The Brooklyn Woman's Club, Colonia, Sorosis, The Woman's Press Club, The Professional Woman's League, Clio, Haarlem Philharmonic, Post-Parliament, Health Protective Association, The Motley, and others. Denver, however, was the successful candidate.

The work of the Committee on Education in the New York State Federation has acquired increased importance under the leadership of its efficient chairman, Dr. A. E. Trant.

In a recent printed circular sent to the clubs of the State by the committee the following recommendations are offered:

"First—The committee shall in future consist of a chairman and ten members, each of the ten to carry on correspondence with the one-tenth of the clubs of the State which are nearest her geographically, and each to be entitled to name an assistant in her territory, subject to the confirmation of the chairman.

"Second—Each club shall be requested to appoint an education secretary, who shall pledge herself to make, before the FIFTEENTH day of each month, to the member of the Education Committee who is her correspondent, a report on the work for public education actually done by her club. When no work has been done a report shall be made to that effect.

"Third—These reports shall be promptly answered by the correspondents. And before the TWENTY-FIFTH of each month each of the ten shall send to the chairman a condensed summary of the reports received by her, with an account of her own recommendations as made to the clubs.

"Fourth—The chairman shall write to each of the ten before the FIFTH of the month following, giving her advice and friendly criticisms. She shall be entitled to appoint a secretary to the committee if need arise.

"Fifth—The *work* offered to the clubs by the committee shall be of *three general kinds*, the utmost freedom of action to be provided for and encouraged. In particular an effort shall be made by the committee to suggest to the clubs methods of work for the schools which shall be in the direct line of their own special object or interest—for instance, to stimulate art clubs to the suitable decoration of school buildings with pictures and casts, and to urge clubs studying English literature to secure the adoption of this study as the basis for composition work if in their judgment such method is wise."

The entire pamphlet is too long for reproduction, but we append the following course of study as offered by the committee:

"I. The Mind and Body of the Child.

"Here will be included the kindergarten, manual training, child-study, and a course of reading for mothers to prepare them to give instruction to boys and girls in personal purity and the sacredness of parenthood.

"II. The History of Education.

"(1) The *General* History of Education, emphasizing the evolution of the modern idea of education. (2) The History of Education in the United States. (3) Courses for the use of historical clubs on education during the period which they are studying—*e. g.*, Old Greek Education, Educational Ideas and Methods at Rome, Early Christian Schools, Jesuit Schools, Schools of Modern Europe.

"III. The Theory of Education. Comprising Courses in General and Applied Psychology.

"Here an effort should be made to show that education is not a hard and fast science, but a progressive one, which must adapt itself successively to conditions that it has helped to create. It is felt that the club women of the State can do much for both teachers and pupils by emphasizing the truth that there can be no *system* which is *final*.

"IV. The Ethical Results of Education: A study of methods of teaching with special reference to effects upon character."

"V. School Organization and Administration in New York State, and New York School Law.

"The committee can put at the disposal of clubs an excellent general Bibliography of Education through the aid of the State Library and its system of travelling libraries. Measures will be taken by the committee to put into effect the suggestion of the General Federation that an educational meeting of club women be held in connection with the next meeting of the State Teachers' Association, and if this meeting prove helpful it shall be made a precedent.

"Ida J. Butcher, Utica.

"Arria S. Huntington, Syracuse.

"Frances Fisher Wood, New York.

"Helen Barrett Montgomery, Rochester.

"Amelia Earle Trant, chairman."

On January 1, 1898, the following letter was sent by the president to the federated clubs:

"*Dear Madam President:*

"It is the earnest desire and purpose of the president and Executive Board of the New York State Federation of Women's Clubs to make this a year of practical work, mutual helpfulness, and satisfactory results. This

object can only be attained by the united efforts of every federated club and by the individual work of each member composing such clubs. To this end I address you, asking you to take such action in your association as may tend to the furtherance of the proposed plan, and that you may recognize your responsibility and realize that to you belongs, in a great measure, the success and the ultimate results for good to the women of New York in the welfare and preservation of the Federation. For the furtherance of this object it is proposed to change in a measure the plan of work as carried on in the past years of the organization. Groups of clubs as heretofore will comprise the heads under which the work will progress. They will be divided as follows: 1. Educational. 2. Literary. 3. Philanthropic. 4. Shakespeare. 5. Civics. 6. Musical. 7. Travellers. 8. Art. 9. Practical Art. 10. Parliamentary. 11. Political Study. 12. Scientific. 13. Patriotic. 14. Household Economics. 15. Town and Village Improvement. 16. Trained Nurses and First Aid to the Injured. 17. Alumnæ. 18. Historical. 19. Philosophy. 20. Women in Law. 21. Free Libraries.

"Fewer essays and more discussion will be the order of the day. Each club must have representation, and to this end a chairman for the group under which by the division proposed your club will belong will be appointed, whose duty it shall be to prepare certain questions pertaining to the interest and advancement of your club, mail them to you for approval, and have your delegates come prepared to take part in the discussions on those points. For example, the Shakespeare Clubs may have four questions: 1. On the proper method of studying Shakespeare. 2. The position Shakespeare's plays take at the present time, etc., etc. One hour will be devoted to this object, and at its expiration the discussion will close, and no further time limit be allowed. By this means we hope to hear from all the different interests represented in the various organizations embraced in the Federation.

"Trusting that this plan of work will meet with your approbation and coöperation, and that you will signify your approval, I am

"Very truly yours,

"F. I. HELMUTH."

The membership in the New York State Federation is now 186 clubs and organizations, representing an aggregate individual membership of 24,925 women. These figures do not include the Western Federation of twenty-nine clubs, which applied for membership in the State organization in 1897, and, though excluded at the time on a technicality, has since been invited to join the main body, preserving its own form and autonomy on the same principle as the State and the General Federations.

Of the registered membership in New York State 80 count from Greater New York—29 of these from Brooklyn proper, 36 from New York city, and

the rest from other towns in Long Island, Richmond and Westchester Counties. In the northwestern part of the State, Buffalo counts 10; Syracuse, 13; Rochester, 4; Utica, 2; Andover 2. Allegany County is State federated both as a county and through several of the clubs composing its county membership.

One hundred and fourteen of the whole number of federated clubs were organized on strictly literary lines, 22 for educational purposes, 6 strictly for the study of Shakespeare, 3 for classical study—2 of these composed only of university women. There are 13 great Alumnae associations, besides the unique Teachers' and Graduates' Associations of Buffalo, 2 associations of working girls, 6 "professional" clubs, or clubs of professional women, 4 patriotic societies, 11 philanthropic organizations, 2 Mothers' Clubs, 2 household economic organizations, 8 clubs for civic purposes, or having a civic side, including one for political study and the Woman's Auxiliary to the Civil Service Reform Association of New York City.

The unfederated clubs are recorded as 130. Of these Syracuse contributes 13, the same number as are federated, and Utica 9, to 2 federated. Only 6 unfederated clubs are recorded of Greater New York.

There are 33 study clubs registered in the State University, and 15 selected outlines of club work are published in the *State Bulletin* for 1897.

The grouped interests under which the president of the New York State Federation, Mrs. F. I. Helmuth, has classified the work is contained in her letter to local clubs.

The next annual meeting of the State Federation will be held in New York city November 1st to 4th, by invitation of the clubs of Greater New York.

The **Western New York Federation** of Women's Clubs and Educational Organizations was formed by the Scribblers, a club of fifty women in Buffalo, mainly writers and newspaper workers, who acted on motion made by Mrs. Hamilton Ward, of Belmont, that a local federation be formed of western literary clubs. The motion was put to vote and carried, and the first meeting called June, 1896, in Buffalo, and Mrs. Christina Howells Charles, president of the Shakespeare Club of Cuba, elected the president.

Mrs. Charles was the delegate from her club to the second annual meeting of the State Federation in Brooklyn in 1895, and was also the secretary of the Allegany County Federation, of which Mrs. H. Ward was then president.

Mrs. Charles proved herself an able leader. She planned the work upon broader lines than was at first anticipated, and has been reelected to her office at each successive annual meeting. The constitution states as the object: "To stimulate interest in careful study of educational, literary, and artistic topics among the women of western New York, and to strengthen this interest by regular and sympathetic intercourse."

The territory embraced includes the counties of Allegany, Broome, Catta-



FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S LITERARY AND EDUCATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS OF WESTERN NEW YORK

MRS. CHRISTINA HOWELLS CHARLES, President

MRS. WILLIAM BOOKSTAVEN, Corresponding Secretary

MRS. T. B. READING, Vice-President

MARY L. DANFORTH, Recording Secretary

ELEANOR M. LADD, First Vice-President

raugus, Cayuga, Chautauqua, Chemung, Cortland, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Onondaga, Ontario, Orleans, Oswego, Schuyler, Seneca, Steuben, Tioga, Tompkins, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates.

Two "bureaus" have been established—a Bureau of Parliamentary Law and a Bureau of Reciprocity. This last is of special value in facilitating the exchange of papers and addresses among the clubs. The chairman of the Reciprocity Bureau is Miss E. M. Ladd. In her report (June, 1897) she recommended that a list of subjects be supplied to local clubs from which to select such as would usefully supplement the regular work, or form new departments in addition to those existing. Among these were mentioned: Pedagogics, Libraries—Free and Travelling, Village Improvement Societies, Rest-rooms for Visiting Women to Promote Intercourse between Town and Country Women, Practical Science, Municipal Reform and Government, Legislation (while Legislature and Congress are in actual session), Household Economics, Sanitation, Artistic and Sanitary Dress Reform, Sociology.

At this meeting an autumn conference (October) was recommended and provided for, to be called the President's Round Table. This consists of the Executive Committee and the presidents of local clubs, and the purpose is "to counsel concerning the interests of the various clubs, to advise and to formulate plans of mutual helpfulness, but without taking authoritative action."

The first officers of the Western Federation were: President, Mrs. C. H. Charles; vice-presidents, Miss E. M. Ladd, Mrs. J. C. Dunham; recording secretary, Miss M. L. Danforth; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Bookstaver; treasurer, Mrs. T. B. Reading.

At the annual meeting of June 3, 1897, a badge was adopted, consisting of a loop of red ribbon hung over a bar pin from which is suspended a triangle. The sun is red enamel, and the flame from the lamp of knowledge is red. The scroll that hangs over the book is white enamel, and the letters on the scroll are silver in the silver badge and gold in the gold badge.

The officers elected June, 1897, were: President, Mrs. Christiana H. Charles, Cuba; vice-president, Mrs. T. B. Reading, Buffalo; recording secretary, Miss H. M. Mills, Syracuse; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. T. Helmer, Salamanca; treasurer, Miss L. M. Parish, Dunkirk.

The president's address embraced the following:

"To-day we can see somewhat of the fruits of the year's work and take courage for the future. To some this Federation was, at best, an experiment, possibly unwise, certainly rash; to many the prospect for immediate results was dubious; to others, full of the enthusiasm of the time and the opportunity, the project was a success from the hour of its conception. How well these have precipitated their enthusiasm into substantial results the various reports clearly show. We have grown. We have strengthened. Those chosen to

lead have proven worthy the confidence reposed in them—I am glad to make public acknowledgment of the good work done by the county chairmen of correspondence in their respective fields. As might have been expected, a great deal of good done lies also in the fact that the Bureau of Reciprocity has so well fulfilled its mission. This principle is fundamental in all organization. This mutual self-giving, that the common cause may be advanced, and this alone, is *working together*. Here again perfection comes only by the giving, the constant culture of the spirit of giving the enlarged self for the great end in view.

"It used to be said, 'All roads lead to Rome.' In spirit, at least, history repeats itself. All thoughts of woman's advancement lead to the woman's club. Here is a chance to be a success, thus beginning the journey to higher things. Nowhere in the wide, wide world is there better opportunity for the development of the spirit of self-concession for common good."

The Bureau of Reciprocity reported the following topics for five-minute discussions in local clubs:

"How may the home best promote the work of the school?" "How may the school best supplement the work of the home?" "Are the home and the school coördinate and independent factors in the education of the child, or is one supplementary to the other?" "How far has the State a right to control the education of the child?" "Responsibility of parents to teachers; of teachers to parents." "Is there a tendency to delegate too much of the practical education of the child to the school? How does this tendency affect school work; the home life?" "Are the home and the parent neglecting responsibility by increasing the domain of the school, and limiting the work of the home along educational lines?" "Are specialists the best educators for children?" "Breadth of culture versus individuality. Individuality versus breadth. The culture of the home compared or contrasted with the education of the schools. Which increases power? Which strengthens individuality? How secure best results?"

The following is the list of clubs in the Western Federation as recorded officially, October, 1897:

Batavia Political Equality Club, Batavia; Monday Afternoon Club, Binghamton; English-American Reading Class, Buffalo; "Friends," Buffalo; Friday Afternoon Literary Club, Buffalo; Monday Class, Buffalo; Polytechnic Club, Buffalo; Scribblers, Buffalo; Woman's Investigating Club, Buffalo; Clintonian Society of the State Normal School, Buffalo; Shakespeare Club, Cuba; Shakespeare Amateur Society, Cuba; Women's Literary Club, Dunkirk; Women's Literary Club, Forestville; Geneva Art Circle, Geneva; Nineteenth Century Club, Hamburg; New Century Art Club, Jamestown; Saturday Club, Lockport; Tuesday Club, Mayville; Fortnightly Culture Club, Medina; Enquirers' Club, Randolph; "Olla Podrida," Salamanca; Syracuse Political Equality Club, Syracuse; Morning Musicals, Syracuse.

State Federation in Ohio

THE movement for the federation of women's clubs in Ohio began with a resolution passed by the Ohio delegation at the second biennial meeting of the General Federation in Philadelphia. Pursuant to that resolution, a call was issued in the following September (1894) for a convention to be held in Springfield, October 24th and 25th, to organize an Ohio federation of women's clubs.

The committee to whom the preliminary work had been assigned consisted of Mrs. C. B. Buchwalter, chairman of State Correspondence, Mrs. A. J. Robert, Mrs. C. B. Robertson, Mrs. M. P. Rose, Mrs. V. C. Ellard, Mrs. O. P. Huggins, and Mrs. A. Zugschwert.

The call was confined to women's literary clubs. No reform clubs or clubs that had a special aim were invited, as a common ground of work and inspiration was the object in view. It was also decided that, at least in the beginning, only single clubs should enter, ruling out city unions, leagues, and local federations.

Ninety-eight clubs were invited, seventy-eight responded, with two hundred and thirty-three delegates. The convention was first called to order Wednesday, October 24th, at 2 P.M. A temporary organization was effected, Mrs. J. A. Robert, of Dayton, chairman, and Miss Anna B. Johnson, of Springfield, secretary. Mrs. C. B. Buchwalter, chairman of the committee, also State chairman for the G. F. W. C., spoke a few words of greeting, and briefly stated the object of the meeting. An address followed by Mrs. Alice Williams Brotherton, of the Woman's Club of Cincinnati, on the benefit of organization. Mrs. N. Coe Stewart, of Cleveland, Miss Laws, of Cincinnati, Mrs. Sneath, of Tiffin, Mrs. Huggins, of



Mansfield, and others spoke warmly in favor of the proposed federation, and finally brought the question to a vote, which was unanimously in its favor.

The chair then appointed as Committee on Enrolment: Mrs. J. W. Murphy, Springfield; Miss Andrews, Dayton; and Miss Nutt, of Sydney.

Mrs. Coates Kinney, of Xenia, was made chairman of Committee on Constitution; and Mrs. Marie J. Hunnler, of Dayton, chairman of Committee on Nominations. The convention then adjourned till evening.

The presence of Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin was a source of great satisfaction, and the evening was devoted to a reception given to her and the delegates by the hostess clubs of Springfield.

Upwards of five hundred delegates, visiting club women and their escorts, were present, and the occasion was very greatly enjoyed. To many it was a revelation of the kind of women the clubs bring together, and to all it afforded an opportunity for social intercourse, brought closer and nearer by the bond of fellowship.

On Thursday the convention met at 9 A.M. The report of the Committee on Constitution was first heard, discussed article by article, and adopted. The president of every federated club was constituted a vice-president, and these, with the general officers formed the council. An Executive Board was provided from the general officers to transact routine business.

The election followed the report of the nominating committee. Mrs. George Lincoln, of London, was the choice for president; Miss Annie Laws, of Cincinnati, vice-president; Mrs. O. P. Huggins, Mansfield, recording secretary; Miss Anna B. Johnson, Springfield, corresponding secretary; Mrs. S. B. Sneath, treasurer; Mrs. H. C. Huntington, of Sandusky, auditor.

Mrs. Lincoln is of Puritan stock, her great-great-grandfather, Eleazer Wheelock, having been a co-laborer with Jonathan Edwards, and a founder, as well as first president, of Dartmouth College. Mrs. Lincoln graduated from the University of Delaware, Ohio, where she subsequently became instructor of mathematics. In 1871 she married Hon. George Lincoln, a member of the Ohio Bar, and Judge of the Court of Common Pleas.

That the convention was harmonious and had a distinct idea of its duties



MRS. GEO. LINCOLN,
First President of State Federation, Ohio

and how to perform them, it is only necessary to say that it adopted a constitution and elected a board of officers in three and a half hours.

The afternoon session of Thursday was given to several important addresses; one, by Mrs. Alice Williams Brotherton, upon "State Organization"; Mrs. Henrotin upon "Organization of Women in Foreign Countries"; Mrs. Ellard upon the "Club as a Factor in Woman's Life," and Mrs. Marlay upon "Culture in Relation to Life."

The "buckeye" was chosen as the emblem of the federation, and its artistic reproduction, with lettering in silver upon old rose ribbon, inspired Mrs. Brotherton to write a stirring song with chorus, which was adopted as the song of the federation, and is sung at every annual gathering. The refrain goes as follows:

CHORUS :—"Oh, the tasselled corn for the whole broad land—
For the Union no power can sever—
But the buckeye brown for the Buckeye State
Will be the badge forever!"

The fine hospitality of Springfield and the dinner given by the State chairman to Mrs. Henrotin, the members of her committee, and the general officers, received cordial acknowledgment; and the convention separated, feeling that a good thing to be done had been done, and quickly.

The following clubs signed as charter members of the State federation: Travellers' Club, Springfield; Fortnightly Club, Springfield; Tuesday Club, Springfield; Monday Afternoon Club, Springfield; College Club, Cincinnati; 1890 Club, Tiffin; Peregrinators, Avondale, Cincinnati; Woman's Club, London; Fortnightly Club, London; Thursday Club, Tusculum, Cincinnati; Crocus Club, Bucyrus; Woman's Literary Club, Dayton; Friday Club, Hillsboro; Clionians, Mansfield; Round Table, Mansfield; Altrurian Club, Troy; Tourists, Price Hill, Cincinnati; Argonauts, Lima; Monday Club, Circleville; Women's Press Club, Cincinnati; Review Club, Newark; Monday Club, Sandusky; Cleveland Sorosis, Cleveland; Woman's Literary Club, Mount Auburn, Cincinnati; Ladies' Centennial Book Club, Ottawa; Progressive Culture Club, Riverside, Cincinnati; Woman's Parliament, Marysville; Current Events Club, Ada; The Holmes Club, Urbana; New Century Club, Sidney; Canton Sorosis, Canton; Current Events Club, Hamilton; Pilgrims, Avondale, Cincinnati; Woman's Club, Xenia; Thursday Conversational Club, Findlay; Carpe Diem, Findlay; Round Table, Bucyrus; Travellers' Club, Mansfield; Old and New, Mansfield; Historical Club, Coshocton; Literary Guild, Cleveland; Findlay Sorosis, Findlay; Coterie, Findlay; Monday Club, Wyoming; Woman's Club, Coshocton; Monday Class, Glendale, Cincinnati; Les Voyageurs, Avondale, Cincinnati; Law Coterie, Cleveland;

East High St. Club, London; Woman's Literary Club, Urbana; Fortnightly, Piqua.

The last act of the convention was a vote to affiliate with the General Federation, which Mrs. Henrotin acknowledged. It was voted also that clubs joining up to December should be considered charter members.

The first annual convention of the Ohio State Federation was called in Mansfield, October 22 and 23, 1895, by invitation of the Round Table, the Traveller's Club, the Nomads, and others of that city.

The subjects suggested by the council for consideration were: "How Clubs can be Brought into Closer Connection," "Exchange of Club Courtesies," "The Advisability of a Lecture Bureau and Directory," "Travelling Libraries," and "Policy of the Federation."

The convention met at 2 P. M., Tuesday, the 22d, at the First Lutheran Church, Mrs. H. M. Weaver making the address of welcome, which was responded to by the president, Mrs. George Lincoln.

The official reports were followed by addresses from Miss Anne E. Connell, of Findlay; Mrs. J. H. Shawan, of Columbus; Mrs. Kate A. Mulford, Mechanicsburg; Doctor Mary Jordan Findlay, Mansfield, and others.

Miss Annie Laws, of Cincinnati, spoke feelingly in memoriam of Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown.

The report of the corresponding secretary stated that forty-one clubs had signed as charter members at Springfield, and that by January, 1895, the number had grown to sixty-three.

At the date of the first annual meeting, the total had become ninety-six strong, energetic clubs, representing a membership of between three and four thousand women.

The treasurer reported a balance of sixty-seven dollars in the treasury.

The first subject brought before the convention for discussion was "How Far is it the Province of the Federation to Interest Itself in State Education and Philanthropy?" Mrs. Shawan, Mrs. Mulford, Mrs. Ewalt, of London; Dr. Findlay, Mrs. Brotherton, of Cincinnati; Mrs. Conover, of Dayton; Mrs. Mitchell, of Mansfield, and others participated in the discussion.

The announcement by the president that the formation of committees was in order, brought Mrs. Buchwalter to her feet. She stated that by a clerical error the officers had been made to appear in the constitution as elected for one year, instead of two. If that error of one word could be rectified, there would be no need of an election for 1895. It was unanimously voted that the error be rectified, and the constitution reprinted. The appointment of committees on credentials and resolutions closed the session.

On Tuesday evening the six federated clubs of Mansfield gave a beautiful

reception in the parlors of the Masonic Temple, which were decorated with palms, ferns, and flowers. A burnished "buckeye," suspended from a yellow ribbon, was furnished to each guest as a souvenir; and it was observed that the gentlemen present were as eager to obtain possession of this emblem as the ladies whom they accompanied.

On Wednesday morning, Mrs. C. B. Buchwalter opened the subject of "Travelling Libraries." Mrs. S. B. Sneath said: "Ohio could not find a better example to imitate than the State of New York, which, through her Board of Regents, has developed a most excellent system of travelling libraries. The New York idea is, that if you once have a library for six months in a place the people will go to work and try to get one."

Mrs. Sneath made a strong appeal to the federation to take some action in the matter. It was suggested that this might be more properly the work of the Ohio Library Association. Miss Mercer, librarian of Mansfield Memorial Library, was called upon and explained that the Ohio Library Association had not yet taken up any plan of travelling libraries, although the subject had been talked about. She thought the expression of opinion by the federation might have weight. Miss Newton moved that the Ohio State Federation indorse the idea of a system of travelling libraries. This, after some discussion, was carried, and the Executive Board was authorized to appoint any committees necessary to forward the work.

Roll-call was responded to by one hundred and twenty-five delegates. Mrs. J. A. Canfield, ex-president of Nebraska State Federation, was present as a guest, and gave an account of the working of that organization.

Mrs. Alice Brotherton's song of the "Buckeye," given by a quartette of young women, closed the session.

A ride about the city, offered by the Mansfield clubs to the delegates, occupied part of the noon recess.

At 2 P.M. the convention met for its last session, and took an informal

vote of preference for place of meeting of the second annual convention. Cleveland was indicated, and then the president introduced Mrs. A. J. Robert, of Dayton, who read a fine paper upon "Originality in Club Work." This was followed by a witty address by Mrs. E. M. Avery, of Cleveland, upon "We, and Our Ancestors." Mrs. Robert's paper was discussed at some length, and excited great interest.

The closing address was made by Miss Clara C. Newton, of Cincinnati, upon "State Federation, and its Value to Ohio Women."

The Committee on Credentials reported the pres-



MRS. E. M. AVERY.

ence of one hundred and twenty-five vice-presidents and delegates, and forty-one visiting club-women.

Miss Annie Laws was chosen the delegate to the General Federation at Louisville, and the Committee on Resolutions made hearty acknowledgment of the hospitality received, and also to the president of the federation, Mrs. Lincoln, for the wise, kindly, and impartial spirit displayed throughout the session.

The second annual meeting of the Ohio State Federation was held at Unity Church, Cleveland, October 1 and 2, 1896.

The call to order was at 9 A.M., and an invocation was made by Rev. Marion Murdock. Mrs. N. Coe Stewart, of Cleveland Sorosis, made the address of welcome, and was responded to by the State president, Mrs. Lincoln, whose address was a review of the work and aims of the federation and the result so far accomplished. She declared the great feature of the Ohio federated clubs as educational, and their distinctive work the promotion of libraries.

Three standing committees were announced as having been formed by the Executive Board, viz.: Committee on Reciprocity, Committee on Lecture Directory, and a Committee on Library Extension.

The work of the board as a unit, the measure of success attained, was said to be apparent in the manifest interest and increasing number of clubs in Ohio. From a charter membership of forty-one the State organization had grown to a membership of one hundred and fifteen women's clubs, with a membership of four thousand one hundred and thirty-three active women.

The report of the secretary, Mrs. Huggins, summarized the work of the clubs as "daily unfolding and broadening in scope as the interest deepens."

The report of the treasurer, Mrs. Sneath, showed sixty-seven dollars as remaining in the treasury.

The report of the Committee on Library Extension was most interesting. It said: "The new library law of 1896 had drawn attention to the State library, and the commission appointed by Governor Bushnell under the provision of this law made it seem best to try and consult with that body.

"Through the courtesy of Dr. Canfield, president of the Ohio State University, and Mrs. Canfield, a member of this committee, we were invited to meet the Library Commissioners at Columbus, June 22, 1896.

"As a result of this conference, it was clearly seen that the distinctive work which the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs has taken up, namely, library extension, and the aspirations of the State Library Commissioners were one and the same.

"Every club in the Ohio State Federation has been asked to send its calendar to the chairman of the Library Committee, to be by her sent on to

the State librarian. These calendars and outlines of study will indicate the kind of books needed by women in public and travelling libraries. It was recommended that the Library Committee be called a Committee of Conference and Coöperation with the State Board of Library Commissions, and, further, that each club be asked to appoint a similar committee, with similar designation, to act with the committee appointed by the Ohio Federation of Women's Clubs."

The report of the Library Committee, through its chairman, Mrs. Buchwalter, was followed by discussion, in which Mrs. Stewart, Mrs. Rose, Mrs. Huggins, and others took part.

The revision of constitution and by-laws occupied part of the afternoon session, and was followed by two-minute reports from local clubs.

An important address was from Mrs. Charlotte Reve Conover, upon "What Ohio Women Can Do for Ohio Schools." Other addresses were: "Voices of To-day," by Mrs. May Alden Ward, of Boston, Mass.; "The Mission of Women's Clubs," Mrs. George Lincoln; "The Broader Meaning of the Club Idea," Mrs. Brotherton; "The Club Member," Rev. Florence Buck; "Knitting by the Fireside," Mrs. W. B. Neff; and "How Women's Clubs May Supplement College Life," Professor Emma Perkins.

The reports of the Committees on Reciprocity and Lecture Directory were made by Georgia Meriman, M.D., and Mrs. E. M. Avery. Discussion followed the report of the Committee on Reciprocity.

Local reports occupied part of every session, and there was charming music as a relief to the routine of business and discussion.

Thursday evening was given to a magnificent reception at Grey's Armory, and an address by President Charles F. Irving.

The report of the Nominating Committee and subsequent election placed Mrs. Agnes J. Robert, of Dayton, in the president's chair. Mrs. Robert is a woman of trained ability, is an ex-president of the Woman's Literary Club, of Dayton, and known for judgment that can always be relied upon and an energy that is untiring.

The closing address was from Mrs. Buchwalter upon the future work, and the last word of farewell by Mrs. W. G. Rose, founder and honorary president of Cleveland Sorosis.

There was warm expression, through the Committee on Resolutions, of the hospitality of Cleveland, after a summer which had been given to centennial work, in which the women's clubs had taken a very prominent part.

The convention then adjourned to meet in October, 1897.

The third annual convention was held in Piqua, October 27th, 28th, and 29th. A letter from the president, Mrs. J. A. Robert, says: "If Mrs. Croly and Miss Alice Cary could have been there, they would have seen in some

degree the fruition of their purpose and aim in the club movement, that woman should be lifted out of unwomanly self-distrust and disqualifying diffidence, taught to think for themselves, and get their opinion at first hand.

"The spirit of the convention was responsive, courteous; every woman was alert for every good thing said and done. Six hundred visitors and delegates from *out of town* is a moderate estimate of those in attendance. The Ohio federation accepts only clubs technically called 'literary clubs'—that is, those whose energies are consecrated to broad educational study of literature, history, economics, science and art. We number one hundred and sixty-five clubs. Our policy is club extension and library extension; our aim, to establish a literary club in every village, and a library in every township throughout our State. And the good work is nobly progressing. Thirteen clubs were organized this year in Columbus alone. The Executive Board has asked each club in the State to appoint a committee to promote club extension and has made this urgent request of each club: 'Try to organize a new club this year, foster it, federate it. This is club philanthropy.'

"This policy could not be carried out in the country districts and in the villages, were it not for our fine system of Travelling Libraries and the very liberal laws with reference to permanent libraries in townships and incorporated villages. The outlook is most hopeful.

"AGNES J. ROBERT."

Topics at a council meeting were: Programme making. What should be the limit of service of a club president? Responsibilities of club officers. How far is it profitable for a club to have outside lecturers?

An interesting group of club papers were upon the expanded view of the woman's club, its mission in the home, the State, the working life, and its influence upon the moral tone of the community. A symposium considered: 1. How much required reading is possible in the club? 2. Is it wise for a parlor club to maintain strict parliamentary rules? 3. What are the obligations of a club-woman to her club? 4. Methods of preparing club work. Discussion led by Mrs. M. J. Kumler, of Dayton.

Ohio answers the question "Why join the federation?" as follows: "Organization is the test as well as the sign of intelligence." When common interests are to be advanced, organization of some sort becomes a necessity. What the local club is to the individual member, the federation is to the local club, with the advantage of a wider outlook and a larger constituency.

The officers are: President, Mrs. J. A. Robert, Dayton; vice-president, Mrs. H. M. Weaver, Mansfield; recording secretary, Mrs. G. A. Weaver, Urbana; corresponding secretary, Miss Battelle, Piqua; treasurer, Mrs. E. P. Jones, Findlay; auditor, Miss Nettie Oskamp, Cincinnati.

The latest announcement from the Library Extension Committee of the State Federation says that "Travelling Libraries" are now procurable from the Ohio State Library of Columbus upon application. These libraries are in sets of twenty-five volumes, and already many are in use, but many more will be applied for when the advantages are more fully understood. This great library work, which is being projected in all States that are federated, is only one among the many progressive and educational enterprises that follow in the line of the woman's club.

The State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation, Mrs. C. B. Buchwalter, furnishes the following summary of Ohio clubs:

"The Woman's Club, of Xenia, is the oldest club in the State. It started in 1867. Its membership has ranged from ten to fifteen; it meets at the homes of the members, but has maintained a continuous life.

"The Ladies' Centennial Book Club, of Ottawa, was, as its name implies, organized in 1876; the Woman's Literary Club, of Portsmouth, in 1877, though known for years as the 'History Class.' In that year also the Glendale Monday Class was started.

"The Conversational Club, of Cleveland, is the oldest of the Forest City, as it was formed in 1878.

"The Youngstown Reading Circle began in 1879; the Fortnightly Club, of Elyria, in 1880; the Monday Talks, of Newark, in 1883, and The Tourists, of Price Hill, Cincinnati, in 1884. In 1886, Progress Club, College Hill, and Four O'clock, Elyria, were founded. The Wyoming Monday Club started in 1887; Mrs. Huggins, of Mansfield, had, however, been the leader of study classes since 1881. In 1888 the Woman's Press Club, of Cincinnati, and Travellers', of Springfield, were founded. The Woman's Literary Club, of Dayton, was organized in 1889. The Historical Club, of Coshocton, was founded in the same year, and was the furthest point east which clubs in Ohio had reached. Les Voyageurs, of Avondale, Cincinnati, was formed in 1889. In 1890 the Woman's Parliament, of Marysville; the Monday Club, of Circleville; the 1890 Club, of Tiffin, and the Pilgrims, of Avondale, were founded. All these clubs preceded the organized work of the General Federation.

"Ohio was fortunate in its first State chairman of correspondence at the formation of the General Federation, Miss Mary Davies Steele, of the Woman's Literary Club, of Dayton. Miss Steele left the impress of her cultivated mind and broad sympathy on the whole club movement. She was a highly valued member of the Board of the General Federation of Woman's Clubs, from 1892 until her retirement in 1895. She was the good genius of the Ohio clubs during her term of office. She cheerfully gave of the best thought she had to promote the club spirit and interest, not only in her own State but

wherever it was needed. All this was done from her invalid's chair, as she rarely left her sick-room, and never had the stimulus of the great club gatherings. A literary woman *par excellence*, she very soon saw the broad possibilities of the woman's club movement, and the force it might become in all effort to raise the moral and intellectual standard. Her suggestions in the early days of the General Federation, that committees should be appointed to promote better methods of education, to found country clubs, to extend public libraries, and form reciprocal relations, have all been adopted.

"She did not live to see all her aspirations accomplished, but long enough to realize that a glad day had dawned. She passed into the higher life in February, 1897, 'expectant, grateful, serenely acquiescent.'

"The organization of the General Federation gave a new impulse to women's clubs in Ohio, as elsewhere. In 1891 Cleveland Sorosis was formed. This was the first department club in the State, and is the largest in membership. It was modelled upon the original Sorosis, but with twelve instead of eight departments: one for every month in the year.

"The early clubs had been mainly study clubs, and many of them had grown out of classes.

"The Fortnightly, of Springfield; the Carpe Diem, of Findlay; the Review, of Newark, and the Fortnightly, of Piqua, were all organized in 1891. In 1892, the Woman's Club, of Coshocton; the Woman's Club, of London; the Hartwell Literary Club; the Columbian, of Piqua; and the Ladies' Literary Club, of Richwood, were organized. In 1893, a league of women's clubs, and other organizations of women, was formed in Mansfield, the first 'club of clubs' in Ohio. In this year also the New Century Club, of Akron, was organized, and Canton Sorosis started as the Ninety-Three Club. In this year, also, the Friday Afternoon Club, of Dayton; the Tuesday and Monday Afternoon Clubs, of Springfield; the Riverside Culture Club, of Riverside; Cincinnati, and the Woman's Literary Club, of Urbana, were formed.

"In 1894, the Woman's Club, of Cincinnati, was organized, the second department club in the State. In the same year were formed the Wednesday Morning Club, of Columbus; Emerson, of Dayton; Fortnightly, of London; the Monday Club, of Mount Vernon, and a club for the promotion of university extension in Cincinnati.

"In 1895, the Woman's Civic League, of Cincinnati, was formed. This was the first distinctly civic club that entered the General Federation from Ohio. In 1895, also, the Agora was formed. This was a club of undergraduates of the Western Seminary at Oxford, and was welcomed into the General Federation in the year of its birth.

"An interesting development of the club spirit manifested itself about this time in the organization of the Century Club, of the National Cash

Registry Company of Dayton. It is a club of two hundred young women who must be in the employ of the National Cash Registry Company.

"In 1896, the old conservative town of Chillicothe organized its first club. It started on a well-defined basis, adopted the most approved methods of government and work, and has already made its influence felt.

"The chronology of the Ohio clubs belonging to the General Federation is complete with one exception: the Wimodaughsis, of Youngstown. But the chronology of clubs can never be complete, for others are organizing and still others applying for membership in the General and State Federations. It is a movement the march of which is forever onward.

"C. B. BUCHWALTER."

The Lakeside Federation of Women's Clubs is a neighborhood gathering of local literary clubs for summer work and participation in summer social life. It was organized in 1894 by Mrs. Malcolm Kelly and Mrs. M. G. Stone, both of Port Clinton, Ohio.

The proximity of a group of enthusiastic club-women belonging to these clubs, and the opportunity for coming together afforded by the Lakeside assembly grounds, already established as an educational centre, stimulated the enterprise and were great factors in its success.

All of the clubs belonging to the federation are in the vicinity of Lakeside, excepting Cleveland and Canton Sorosis.

Cleveland Sorosis has twice furnished the president for the Lakeside Federation, Mrs. L. H. Selover and Mrs. C. M. Oviatt, who succeeded the first president, Mrs. Malcolm Kelly.

From the first eleven clubs the federation has grown to twenty, and the presiding officer for 1897 was Mrs. George Stevens, of Elyria.

The annual meetings are held at Lakeside, the sessions occupying two days, and the very best talent is employed to fill the programme.

Mrs. Helen M. Henrotin was the speaker in 1895, followed the next year by Mrs. Croly, while at the last meeting in July, 1897, Mrs. Alice Danner Jones, of Canton, Ohio, delighted a large gathering.

The second day of the convention is always given to representative work from



MRS. D. MELVILLE OVIATT,
President Lakeside Federation, Ohio

the clubs. It consists of club symposiums, along the educational, sociologic, and literary lines of their work. The intellectual development of these small clubs is almost phenomenal, when the limited resources in books and libraries are taken into account. Larger clubs with greater opportunities find they have much to give, and that the sincere, thoughtful character of their papers imparts an original value sometimes absent from more pretentious productions.

The outdoor life and social atmosphere of Lakeside, added to the beauty and complete comfort of its surroundings, are elements of great value to tired mothers and housekeepers, and the usefulness, therefore, of the Lakeside Federation and its continued prosperity are no longer matters of question or doubt.

The Atticans, of Akron, was organized as a study club, April 5, 1896.

The founder was Miss H. S. Phillips, a woman of fine, broad intelligence, and a student of art and music.

The object was study for mutual improvement and social culture. Permanent club-rooms were secured and classes formed in *belles-lettres*, and several branches of natural science. Attention was also given to music, oratory, art, and original composition.

Qualifications for membership were those of character and taste for artistic and literary pursuits. But there was no publicity in regard to ineligible candidates.

The plan and methods drew together a number of very bright, refined, and intelligent women; and to quote one who knows them: "If every club gives to its members the good The Atticans has, we say, 'God speed them.'"

The Atticans joined the General and State Federations in 1896, and are incorporated.

Ladies' Centennial Book Club, of Ottawa. In February, 1876, a few of the leading ladies of the little town of Ottawa met at the home of Mrs. Kate M. Long, to plan a club for mutual improvement. These ten women had long felt the need of a literary and educational centre, in a place which had few advantages and where there was no public library.

The organization was at once effected, a constitution was adopted, and the officers elected from the charter members: Mrs. Long, Mrs. E. P. Moore, Mrs. M. V. De Ford, Mrs. M. Lasky, Mrs. Z. Kinder, Mrs. A. Allen, Mrs. R. J. Krauss, Mrs. J. Ewing, Mrs. E. Moorehead, and Mrs. G. Paul. The name,



HATTIE S. PHILLIPS.
Founder of The Atticans, Akron

Ladies' Centennial Book Club, was chosen unanimously. Meetings were held weekly, and the money obtained by the annual fee of three dollars, assigned to the purchase of books. These books were divided by lot at the end of the year.

The programmes for each meeting were prepared by a committee appointed at the one preceding. Naturally, they were varied, and sometimes interspersed with music.

Another feature was the "scrapbox," supplied with brief clippings from the newspapers, and read by a member appointed for the purpose. This was really the beginning of a department of current events in the club. Responses to roll-call were by reciting a quotation, a custom still continued and always enjoyed.

The anniversary is made the occasion of a reunion, to which husbands and friends are invited. Invitations to these are considered very desirable.

The Ladies' Centennial Book united with the General Federation of Clubs in 1894, and united with the State federation when it was formed in October of the same year. It sends delegates to the biennials and to the State conventions, and feels strongly that interest has increased, that the club life has been a true inspiration, and that they have gained by union much more than would have come through individual research.

Only one charter member, Mrs. Lasky, has been removed by death, and few have left the circle.

Programmes are now prepared by a committee a year in advance, and the work is more consecutive and of greater continuous interest.

The colors adopted are pink and garnet, and the club flower, the carnation. The president (1896-97) was Miss Cynthia L. Pugh; secretary, Mrs. R. E. Edwards.

The Carpe Diem Club, of Findlay, was founded March 24, 1891, by ten women, who organized for "intellectual, moral, and social improvement."

"The creation of opportunity is the object of creation itself." In the beginning the officers were elected every three months, and a programme committee appointed to prepare the outline of study for each term of office. This was in order to give all the members the training in

methods and responsibilities of office; but this constant change did not work for the best interests of the club, and as the numbers grew, the election of officers was made annual, and the programmes printed for the year, which has proved far more satisfactory. The work has been historic, literary, and miscellaneous, with time always given to passing events of importance.

The first year was devoted to English and American authors; the second, to Swinton's "History of the World," and miscellaneous subjects; the third year was given to American history; the fourth, to English history and

literature; and the fifth to France. By this time Carpe Diem was organized with a strong corps of officers and well-considered plans for work. Every member was required to be on duty at the time appointed, or provide for its fulfilment. The response to roll-call was by quotation or the relation of a current event bearing upon the subject. This was followed by the reading of the minutes of the preceding meeting. Carpe Diem joined the General Federation in the spring of 1892, and sent delegates to the biennial in Philadelphia in 1894. One of these, Mrs. Zugschwert, was made one of the committee at that time to form a State federation of Ohio clubs; the other, Mrs. G. F. Pendleton, was the vice-president of Carpe Diem for 1896.

The officers were, during that year: President, Mrs. C. E. Niles; secretary, Mrs. D. Schneider; treasurer, Mrs. Poe; critic, Mrs. W. S. Van Horn.

The Conversational Club, of Cleveland, was organized as a study club in 1878. It is the oldest woman's club in the city. Its work is done through papers upon the given subject, and general conversation upon the two papers given at each meeting. The work has been largely historic, taking America as the field, from prehistoric times, and devoting careful study to its development; to the South American Republics, the British Colonies in North America, and to the development and history of States. The later work has been given to other countries, including India, Egypt, Turkey, China, and Japan, and later still by incursions into the fields of topics of the times and the modern movements of women.

The president for years was Mrs. Elroy M. Avery. The president now (1897) is Mrs. C. B. Lockwood; corresponding secretary, Miss L. J. Alleman.

The Cincinnati Woman's Club. During the winter of 1893-94, Mrs. S. P. Mallon, Mrs. J. J. Gest, Mrs. Fayette Smith, Mrs. H. B. Morehead, Mrs. H. C. Yergason, Miss Annie Laws, and Miss Clara Chipman Newton held a number of meetings to discuss the advisability of organizing a Cincinnati Woman's Club.

These seven women, now known as the founders of the club, finally decided to resolve themselves into a committee to call a meeting of women likely to be interested in the project.

The meeting, which was large and enthusiastic, resulted in the appointment of a committee on organization. This committee, which consisted of the founders of the club, reported at a called meeting held in April. By vote of the one hundred and twenty-four members whose names were enrolled at this meeting, the club membership for the year 1894-95 was limited to one hundred and fifty.

The constitution adopted provides for an executive board of eighteen. Nine directors are elected annually for a term of two years from the entire board; the officers are elected by the club for a term of one year. No officer

of the club, except the secretary and treasurer, is eligible to reelection for more than two consecutive terms of office.

The club is divided into eight working departments: Education, social science and philanthropy, literature, art, music, household economics, civics, and current topics. Each department provides for a general meeting of the club in addition to the department meetings held once each month.

The membership has by vote been increased to two hundred.

Lectures have been given under the auspices of the club by noted speakers in the fields of education, literature, art, and music.

Many of the leading citizens have given time and careful consideration to subjects presented by them before the various departments.

The hopes of the founders of the club seem to be realized in the earnest work given to forwarding such interests as shall best prove the club true to its motto: "Let us be such as help the life of the future."

The pledge of membership to which all subscribe is as follows: "Holding my membership in the Cincinnati Woman's Club as something sacred and worthy of unfailing loyalty, I will sustain the club in its good work, and guard its reputation as long as I am a member."

The development of the kindergarten, the moral education of children, comparative study, and the interdependence of the various branches of the primary school have been among the subjects of consideration from the educational department.

The department of social science and philanthropy has proposed an historical survey of the ethical development of society; and art, literature, and music are all active, and rich in suggestive topics. Current events have inspired discussion upon political and military affairs at home and abroad, especially the significant movements involving the governments of the United States, England, France, Germany, and Russia.

The woman's club joined the General Federation in 1894, and is a charter member of the Ohio State Federation.

Its president is Mrs. Margaret C. Morehead; vice-president, Miss Annie Laws, who is the auditor of the General Federation; secretary, Miss C. C. Newton.

In its membership are enrolled many of the best known club-workers in Ohio; Mrs. Alice Brotherton, several of the members of the College Hill Club, including Mrs. DeGalyer, and others from clubs long established, and well known, but less representative of the many-sided activity of the modern club.

The Cincinnati Woman's Club has an associate list of fifteen gentlemen.

Woman's Civic League, of Cincinnati, was organized May 16, 1895, with one hundred and sixty-seven charter members. It was organized with four departments: education, social science, art, and municipal government.

The object, as announced, was "to promote, by education and active coöperation, a higher public spirit and a better social order."

The Board of Directors consisted of the general officers, and two members from each department of work.

The by-laws provided for the formation of auxiliaries in the city or suburbs to the central league, and to representation upon the programmes of the quarterly, or general meetings, which are monthly.

A syllabus was issued to indicate what it calls a "theoretic background," of activity, and is accompanied by a valuable bibliography.

The syllabus is as follows:

I. The function of government: *a.* Socialistic Theory; *b.* Individualistic Theory; *c.* Resultant of their Opposition.

II. Democracy generically considered: *a.* Evolution of the Individual; *b.* Power of the Executive.

III. The nature of the legislative power: *a.* Delegates or Representatives; *b.* What Constitutes a Mandate; *c.* Rights of the Minority.

IV. The electorate: *a.* Conditions of Suffrage; *b.* Caucus and Convention as Unforeseen Agencies; *c.* Their Effect.

The officers and heads of departments for 1895 were: Mrs. William Christie Herron, president; Mrs. Judge Whitman, first vice-president; Mrs. Archer Brown, second vice-president; Mrs. J. H. McMullen, third vice-president; Mrs. W. W. Peabody, corresponding secretary; Miss H. Belle Whitaker, recording secretary; Miss Adaline Stubbs, treasurer; Mrs. R. S. Rust, Mrs. H. Thane Miller, education; Miss Fannie Field, Mrs. Robert Laidlaw, social science; Mrs. Joseph Green, Mrs. William Gamble, art; Mrs. J. R. Bishop, Mrs. F. L. Steele, municipal government.

Canton Sorosis, of Canton, was organized as the Ninety-three Club in the year of that date. It early became one of the most flourishing women's clubs in Ohio, its eighty active members representing a manufacturing town of upward of thirty thousand inhabitants. It was fortunate, also, in having for its president Mrs. Kate Brownlee Sherwood, an early club worker. Mrs. Sherwood was a non-resident member of the original Sorosis in 1870, when her husband was Secretary of the State of Ohio, and contributed to its department programmes. She was chosen to represent Ohio when Sorosis organized the Association for the Advancement of Women.

Mrs. Sherwood was one of the first members of the Washington, D. C., Literary Club, and one of the founders of the New Century Club, Toledo, Ohio, 1876—both mixed clubs for men and women.

Ninety-three was changed to Canton Sorosis in 1894, and the programmes arranged to cultivate all the talent of the club membership—literary, musical, dramatic, and oratorical. Only one paper of fifteen minutes'

duration was allowed on any given topic. This presented the subject in its general bearings. The divisions were discussed in five-minute talks.

In 1894-95 Canton Sorosis secured the illustrated lectures on China, Corea, and Japan, by Mr. Frank Carpenter; Mrs. Tryon's lecture on "Song Birds of America," and three lectures by Dr. Clarke Robison, of the university extension course, on Byron, Burns, and Shakespeare. The following year a full university course was planned and carried out, largely through the zealous effort of Mrs. F. G. Merriam, the chairman of the Executive Committee.

Canton Sorosis is very hospitable. It celebrated its last meeting before the summer adjournment of 1895 by inviting Cleveland Sorosis, sixty miles away, to a reception and luncheon. This was in exchange for a reception tendered by Cleveland to Canton some time since. The Century Club, of Akron, was also invited, all being members of the Ohio Federation of Clubs.

The president is still Mrs. Kate B. Sherwood; the secretary, Miss Alice Vignus. The active membership has now become one hundred, divided into seven departments of work.

Cleveland Sorosis grew out of a little organization called the Western Reserve Club.

At an annual meeting of the Western Reserve Club, on May 19, 1891, at which there were only eight members present Mrs. W. G. Rose spoke of Sorosis in New York, its varied departments and activities, and the desire felt by herself and other women that Cleveland should organize upon some such basis, and in accordance with the modern spirit and ideas. Mrs. Cadwell, the president of the Western Reserve Club for the nine years of its existence, acknowledged that her absorption in hospital work left no time or strength for the all-round work demanded by a woman's club, and moved that the Western Reserve Club be merged in a new



MRS. W. G. ROSE,
Founder and First President of Cleveland
Sorosis, Ohio

organization to be called Sorosis. This was done, and an organization at once effected, with Mrs. Rose as president; Mrs. L. O. Jones, vice-president; Mrs. J. Nausen, recording secretary; Mrs. M. A. Reilly, corresponding secretary; Mrs. Helen C. Purdy, treasurer, and Mrs. Darius Cadwell, auditor.

Meetings were held on the 4th and 14th of June, and by July 2d the number of ladies interested had grown to fifty-seven, who met in the parlors of the president, Mrs. Rose, where the constitution and by-laws of the origi-

nal Sorosis were read, referred to a committee, and finally adopted, with only a change in the amount of entrance fee and dues.

From this beginning the steady course of Cleveland Sorosis has been onward. Regular meetings have been held on first and third Thursdays all the year round. Its membership has grown to four hundred, who are active not only in their own club work, but lead in the promotion of every civic reform and philanthropic effort. Twelve departments were created, one for each month in the year, and each put in the hands of a chairman. The work done during the first and second years has hardly been surpassed in efficiency, and laid foundations which formed both tests and standards for the future.

The work from the beginning was largely by the membership; and



RECEPTION PARLOR OF CLEVELAND SOROSIS, OHIO

among the papers for the first year may be cited: a descriptive one upon "Alaska," by Mrs. J. O. Dodge; "A Glimpse of St. Petersburg," by Miss Mary Springer; a paper on "Manual Training," by Mrs. N. Coe Stewart, superintendent of this department in the public schools of Cleveland; "A Plea for Expression," by Mrs. Caldwell; and a vigorous paper on "Dress Reform," by the president.

No regular courses of study have been formulated, but excellent papers have been given upon geological formations and physical culture from the scientific point of view.

Cleveland Sorosis has departed considerably from its model in opening its doors to the active discussion of propagandist ideas, and the consequent assumption, at times, of a somewhat aggressive attitude.

The annual reports for 1893 show three hundred and sixty-nine members



MRS. N. COE STEWART,
Ex-President Sorosis, Cleveland, Ohio

on the roll, Mrs. Rose still in the chair, and two smaller clubs formed as outgrowths; one, the Poet's Club, originated by Mrs. Lydia Seymour, for monthly studies of a different poet, and the Scientific Club, under the leadership of a well-known graduate of Orberlin, Mrs. Davidson. Notable papers during the year were given by Mrs. C. S. Selover, Mrs. J. H. Paine, Mrs. Lydia Hoyt Farmer, and Miss Quintrell. The Scientific Committee also arranged successfully for a course of five lectures by Mr. and Madame Le Plougeon, of New York, upon the "Archeological Remains in Central America."

The social features were a "rose" banquet and a "myrtle" luncheon, to which three hundred ladies sat down.

A reception was also given to Mrs. Helen Watterson Moody, a Cleveland girl before she became a New York journalist.

In 1894 Mrs. N. Coe Stewart succeeded Mrs. Rose as president, the ex-president becoming the corresponding secretary.

At the meeting on May 14th Mrs. Rose received from the club the gift of a very beautiful picture. In making the presentation Mrs. J. K. Hard said: "With all the multiplied opportunities for development and improvement now placed before us, we, the grateful recipients, turn our eyes in tenderness to our benefactor—our first president, Mrs. W. G. Rose—who, from the inception of our club has shown such zeal and faithful devotion to its interest and labored so indefatigably for its success."

On "Columbian day," March 22, 1894, a presentation was made to the club of a bust of Washington by an Ohio sculptor, and it now adorns the club-rooms in the city hall, which have been courteously assigned to its use. In the proceedings of Cleveland's centennial year, 1895-96, the members of Cleveland Sorosis took an active part, the president and a large force of general officers and standing committees giving good account of their club training in the lead-



MRS. INGHAM,
President Centennial Commission, Ohio

ership assigned them in the various departments of the celebration. To Mrs. Rose belongs the credit of originating and editing the fine album of places and personages of State interest which is the most treasured souvenir of the centennial occasion.

Cleveland Sorosis is one of the few clubs that publishes an annual volume of its proceedings, including reports, most notable papers, and chronology of the year. Some of these are illustrated by portraits of officers and chairmen of committees.

The president (1897) is Mrs. C. S. Selover, connected with the club from the first, and ex-president of the Lakeside Federation. Mrs. Selover is a daughter of the late Judge Hard, and a woman of fine culture as well as executive ability.

The literary work of the club is reaching a high standard under her leadership.

Other general officers are: Vice-president, Mrs. H. E. Hansmonel; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. M. Oviatt.

The Fortnightly, of Elyria, was founded in 1880, by the mutual desire and happy thought of four young women, Miss Gates and Miss Hogan, of Elyria, and Miss Shepherd and Mrs. Kent, who later became residents of New York city.

The Fortnightly may be classed as "light seekers"; the object—culture and mutual improvement, pure and simple. The history is an unvarying record for seventeen years of faithful and enthusiastic work, assisted by an excellent town library.

The membership was limited to twenty, with four or five honorary members. The presidents have been faithful and devoted, deeply interested in the work, and usually serving long terms. The first president, Mrs. Louise Porter Smith, remained in that capacity eight years.

Mrs. Fannie T. Brooks, who succeeded her, was the president for six years, and her death in December, 1893, was deeply mourned. Mrs. Mary T. Boynton was the capable corresponding secretary for the larger part of the club's life, only retiring in 1896, when she was made vice-president, Miss A. M. Munroe being the president.

The Fortnightly was federated in 1891. In 1896 it added departments in household economics and current topics, with a separate printed outline of programmes. The subjects for study are admirable, including all the details



MRS. C. S. SELOVER,
President Cleveland Sorosis, Ohio



THE FORTNIGHTLY CLUB, OF ELYRIA, OHIO

MISS ANNA M. MONROE, Ex-President
 MRS. LOUISE PORTER SMITH, Ex-President
 MRS. MARY T. BOYNTON, Corresponding Secretary

MISS HELEN GATES, President
 MRS. F. TOPLIFF BROOKS, Ex-President
 MRS. MARION P. HARRINGTON, Charter Member

of city government, political organization, methods of raising revenues, public works, and the like, followed by ancient and modern conditions of living and the detail of home life.

The literary course in 1894-95 included such subjects as the ancient Greeks, literature of the middle ages, rise of the universities, schools of the Jesuits, development of the common school, and the public school system of the United States.

The present officers are: president, Miss Anna M. Munroe; vice-president, Mrs. Mary T. Boynton; recording secretary and treasurer, Miss Williams; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Braman.

The Faculty Woman's Club of Columbus.—This club, as the name indicates, is mainly composed of the women members of the faculty of the State University. It was organized only in 1895, but is very much alive, and a member of both State and National Federations. The object of the club, as stated in the constitution, is to stimulate intellectual and moral development, to promote good fellowship among its members, and by efficient organization to foster social life among students and between students and instructors in the Ohio State University.

Its president, Mrs. James H. Canfield, was the founder, and is a large-hearted, generous-minded woman. She is also an artist, and a lover of art;



MRS. JAMES H. CANFIELD,
President Faculty Woman's Club, Columbus,
Ohio



MRS. N. S. TOWNSEND,
Member Faculty Woman's Club, Columbus,
Ohio

and her fine studio is always open to students, or for talks upon art subjects.

The work of the club is historic and literary, always taking in the art and social life of the country or period which forms the general topic. This year (1897) the study of Holland is exciting peculiar interest, its outline being in many ways unique.

The club flower is the carnation; the club colors, scarlet and gray, which are those of the university.

Mrs. N. S. Townsend is valued as a truly representative member. Highly cultivated, dignified, and refined, she is so simple in her tastes that the humblest may approach her and feel assured of her sympathy.

The membership is progressive, and represents the liberal and trained women of the day.

Mrs. W. A. Kellamen is the federation secretary.

The Fortnightly Civic Club of London.—On January, 10, 1894, sixteen ladies met, by invitation of two of their number, “*Unity, liberty, charity.*” Mrs. Prettyman and Mrs. C. Chenoweth, at the residence of the former, for the purpose of organizing a woman’s club.

The meeting was called to order, and Mrs. George Lincoln was placed in nomination as president of the new club. Her name aroused such enthusiasm that no other was offered; and Mrs. Lincoln arriving a little later, was informed of the unanimous action, and, accepting the honor conferred upon her, became the first presiding officer.

The other officers elected were: Vice-presidents, Mrs. A. E. Smith, Mrs. May B. Prettyman; secretary, Mrs. J. A. Reese; treasurer, Mrs. B. Riley; auditor, Mrs. M. W. Clark.

The name of “Fortnightly” was suggested by the president, and at once adopted. A committee of three was appointed to frame a constitution and by-laws, which, with some slight amendments, was accepted, and became the basis of life and work. The object, as stated, was “a systematic study of literature, and a higher culture, socially and intellectually.”

During the first season the meetings were held at the homes of the members, and the programmes were miscellaneous in character, but towards the close it was resolved to enter with the coming year upon a series of historical studies of the various countries of the world, beginning with Spain. A programme committee was appointed, and a systematic course of study for the club year outlined.

Spain was followed by England, and England by America, the latter study proving far more interesting than any previously followed.

Since the first year the Fortnightly has enjoyed the use of an apartment in the handsome Court House, tendered it by the commissioners

of Madison County. This has made a beautiful and convenient club home.

With the beginning of 1897 the club enlarged its borders and created three departments: literature, education, and social economics.

Mrs. Lincoln was elected and reelected for three successive terms, but finally declined a renomination. Her retirement was marked with expressions of love and regret.

The club colors are two shades of green, pale green and olive; the flower, the rose.

The officers are: President, Mrs. James W. Byers; vice-president, Mrs. C. Markley; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Victor W. Reese; recording secretary, Ida F. Porter.

The year-books are most attractive, and the elective readings not too many, but well selected.

In the beginning of 1897 the Fortnightly Civic Club felt itself impelled to supply the need of an organization similar to its own for young women just entering womanhood. A committee of three, Mrs. Ida F. White, Miss M. H. Toland, and Miss Gertrude Smith, was appointed to organize a junior club, auxiliary to the Fortnightly Civic Club.



MRS. IDA F. WHITE,
President Junior Fortnightly Civic Club,
London, Ohio



MRS. JAMES W. BYERS,
President Fortnightly Civic Club, London,
Ohio

This was effected with a charter membership of twenty young ladies, who elected officers, adopted the constitution of the parent club, and prepared an interesting programme for the first year from studies of English and American authors. The president of the Junior Club is Mrs. Ida Farrer White, a lady of great intelligence, singleness of purpose, and untiring energy. She has already made the Junior a power. The motto is "Unity."

The H. H. Club, of Dayton, was organized February 24, 1891, by a group of young women called together by Miss Margaret Burns, whose desire was "to obtain a higher degree of literary culture, a greater fund

of knowledge, and a better appreciation of the dignity of womanhood." The membership was limited to fifty, and Miss Alice Jennings was elected president, with Miss Burns as the vice-president. There were a second vice-president, recording secretary, corresponding secretary, treasurer, first critic, second critic, and an executive committee.

The meetings were arranged for the first and third Monday evenings in each month, from September to May, inclusive, many of the members being employed during the day as teachers or otherwise.

The club was christened for Helen Hunt, and for the remainder of the club year H. H.'s "Travels at Home and Abroad," her poems, "Ramona," her life, her many winning and womanly qualities, were the subjects of study and discussion.

The studies in 1892 were from French and English history and English literature. These continued through 1893. The work was varied by literary and general topics of the time.

The work is done mainly through papers, the opening one by a leader appointed for that evening; but the programmes are arranged by the Executive Committee for the year, and each member knows to what work she is assigned and prepares for it. "The Religion of Zoroaster" furnished one delightful evening; "Brahmanism" and "Buddhism" others, alternating with such purely literary subjects as "Washington Irving," "Thackeray," and the "Modern Novel."

The subjects for 1896 were: "Ten Great Religions," "Architecture," and "General Literature," the latter including Scott's "Waverley" and "Lady of the Lake."

The papers are always limited to fifteen minutes; the oral talks to eight minutes. Parliamentary law receives attention, and some of the year-books are models of arrangement.

The president is Grace A. Green; corresponding secretary, Katherine Denise; critic, Sophia Ellis.

The Hartwell Literary Club was organized in 1891 with the general object of the intellectual and social culture of its members, and the special object of forming a nucleus for a public library. The annual fee was at once used for the purchase of books; and by November, 1894, the club had in this way obtained five hundred choice volumes, which it presented to the village of Hartwell as a foundation for a free library, which is now in a very flourishing condition.

The library work, however, has not been abandoned; the club still contributes books, and has a voice in the management. The last gift was in the nature of a Christmas present, and consisted of twenty-five dollars' worth of carefully selected books of a character said to be most needed.

The life of the club has grown somewhat more diversified, and is increasingly interesting to its members.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Dayton, was organized April 2, 1889. At preliminary meetings interest had grown until from twenty-five the number had increased to seventy-five progressive women, who adopted a constitution and elected Mrs. Jane B. Marlay as their first president.

One of the earliest and most valued members was Miss Mary Davies Steele, afterwards chairman of State correspondence for Ohio; a scholarly writer and woman of most rare gifts of mind and character.

Mrs. Agnes J. Robert, afterwards one of its presidents, was in 1896 made president of the State federation.

In many other ways the Dayton club has contributed both by women and measures to the success of State and national club life.

The club united with the General Federation in 1890, and it was requested to nominate one of its members for chairman of State correspondence by the executive of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, it being the largest and most notable literary club in the State.

The officers of the General Federation at that time paid their own expenses and supplied their own stationery. The club gladly supplied this necessary outfit for the gifted chairman, her work in every way being largely unpaid, and done at great personal sacrifice.

Hundreds of calendars were sent out by the club for federation work.

The Woman's Literary Club is not a department club; its work has been distinctly literary and educational. Its divisions are: history, general literature, science and art, and miscellaneous. The programmes are in charge of the chairman of these sections, with the aid of the president.

The first subjects under the head of literature for 1896-97 were: "Modern Literary Criticism," "Scientific Literary Criticism," and "Reviews and Reviewers." Later topics were: "The History and Development of Periodical Literature," "The Influence of Magazine Reading and of Magazine Writing on Literature."



MRS. JANE B. MARLAY,
First President Dayton Literary Club,
Ohio

The history section had for its topics "The Constitution of the United States" and "The Declaration of Independence."

The miscellaneous section furnishes frequent papers and talks on social, domestic, educational, and reformatory methods.

In 1892 a committee was appointed to further the appointment of a police matron in Dayton. A careful investigation, both in Dayton and Chicago, furnished the material for a striking and highly interesting report which attracted wide public attention. The passage of a law requiring the employment of a police matron in all large Ohio cities, was said to be mainly due to the work of this committee.



MRS. C. REEVE CONOVER,
President Dayton Literary Club, Ohio

One meeting in the year is held in the evening, and is called gentlemen's night. After a regular programme refreshments are served, and the remainder of the evening spent in social intercourse.

In 1896 the Woman's Club invited the other women's literary clubs of the city to join it in an assembly meeting, each club to have its representation in the programme. This plan proved so successful and so useful in promoting club spirit, that it was determined to hold a similar one every year, and this may lead to a Dayton union of women's clubs.

The membership (1897) is one hundred and twenty-five; the president, Mrs. C. R. Conover; corresponding secretary, Mrs. M. C. Thresher.

This brief outline does not furnish a suggestion of the amount of work done and the influence exerted, but it will serve to indicate how wide and deep are the roots of club life and of its promise for the future.

The Literary Guild, of Cleveland, was founded in 1889 by Mrs. Mary C. McIntyre and Mrs. S. M. Perkins at a dinner party given by the former, at "*Semper fidelis*," which Mrs. Laura Johns, of Kansas, was a guest and assisted in the formation of the new organization.

No definite work was outlined. The members meet semi-monthly for the discussion of various topics, professional, literary, or current, and have an annual dinner, to which they invite a limited number of guests.

The guild was incorporated in 1890, and although not "philanthropic," has done some charitable work, and contributed to State and national suffrage associations.

The topics and papers for 1897 furnish a very interesting outline for



MRS. MARY C. M'INTYRE,
Founder Literary Guild, Cleveland, Ohio



MRS. S. M. PERKINS,
Founder Literary Guild, Cleveland, Ohio

classic and prehistoric study. Subjects of current interest occupy every fourth meeting.

The president (1897) is Mrs. H. B. Roosa; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. F. Malin.

The Mansfield Woman's League was organized in July, 1892. It includes fifteen clubs and societies. The objects, as stated in the constitution, are, "*We believe; we achieve.*" "to bring into communication with each other the various organizations of women in the city for their better knowledge of each other's work, comparison of methods, mutual sympathy and counsel, and united effort in the prosecution of any work of common interest."

"No society entering the league shall thereby lose its individuality or be committed to any principle or method of any other organization."

The officers are those required in any club, and are elected by ballot, the nominations from the floor. These elections are biennial.

There are four standing committees upon house, social, programme, and finance. A group or class from any club may join the league independently of the rest of the club. Dues are paid by each member of a league club instead of by the club, and are ten cents per annum. Four meetings are arranged during the year, in addition to the biennials.

The emblem of the league is a small silver buckle; its motto, "*We believe; we achieve.*"

Monday Afternoon Club, of Springfield, owes its beginning to five ladies: Mrs. J. S. Crowell, Mrs. H. S. Bradley, Mrs. T. J. Kirkpatrick, Miss



MRS. J. S. CROWELL,

First President Monday Club, Springfield, Ohio

Ellen Sasley, and Mrs. Ralph Hunt, who met on December 18, 1893, and organized the Monday Afternoon Club. These ladies were the first officers, and formed an executive committee. The first were years of hard study in Roman history, mediæval art, and Europe in the nineteenth century.

The Monday Club joined the Ohio State Federation in 1894 and enlarged its membership. A programme committee was formed and more original work done, both through papers and discussion. The club numbers twenty active and two honorary members. It meets alternate Mondays.

The general topic for 1897 was the "Development of the United States in the Nineteenth Century." Each member responds to roll-call with some fact drawn from current events, and these are often the basis for interesting subsequent discussion.

The fee is one dollar per year. There are three festival days, "president's day"; the Christmas banquet, to which gentlemen are invited, and the last meeting of the year, which is in charge of the Executive Committee.

The two presidents have been Mrs. Crowell and Mrs. Bradley, both zealous workers, and both elected for second terms. Instead of a critic, the club has a "reviewer," whose duty it is to note errors and look up uncertain facts, which she reports at the following meeting.

The Monday Afternoon Club is a member of the General Federation, and in full sympathy with the growing interests and the high aims of women's clubs.

The Monday Club, of Mount Vernon, was formed in the autumn of 1894 by two young married ladies, Mrs. F. S. Beam and Mrs. E. E. Millard. Mrs. Beam was the first president and Mrs. Millard the secretary.

The early members were nearly all young women, ranging from twenty to thirty-five years, but there was no age limit, and older ladies have joined from time to time.

During the first year the meetings were held weekly at the homes of the members from the middle of October till the end of April inclusive.

The object was social and literary culture. The studies have been somewhat diversified—history and travel succeeded by studies in the literature of the nineteenth century.

For 1897 the general topic was Germany, from the historic, literary, and art points of view. Social conditions and the music of Germany enter into the plan.

The Monday Club became a member of the Ohio Federation in 1894, and in 1895 of the General Federation.

The club flower is the white carnation, and the color pink; the motto, "*Nemo solus sapit.*"

The original intention of the club to furnish an incentive to good reading and study for young married women and young women who have left school, has been well maintained, and in its fourth year it finds a stronger interest and more earnestness in its work among the members than ever before.

During 1896 it managed two fine entertainments, one a lecture on Goethe's "Faust," by Prof. William Norman Guthrie, of Cincinnati, and a reading by Mrs. L. B. Babcock, of Chicago. These were given for the good of the town, and were highly successful.

The final gathering of the year was celebrated as "Tennyson day." An original programme, artistically etched, was distributed, and the Beethoven Club invited as a guest. This is an unfederated musical club of some years' standing. The meeting was held in the parlors of Mrs. J. S. Ringwalt, and the club celebrated the old and new "Monday" in the following lines:

" In ancient days when Monday came
We used the clothes to rub,
And put them boiling on the stove,
And stir them with a club.
But, oh ! our Monday Club to-day
Is quite a different stick ;
For we've abandoned household toils,
And learned a better trick.

" And yet a not less potent rod
Is our new Monday Club ;
For with it we the poets prod,
And all prose authors drub,
And with it, just as Moses did,
We drive the waves apart,
And enter on the promised land
Of learning and of art.
So let the fervent wish be breathed
By every loyal daughter,
That this our Monday Club
Be never in hot water."

The officers of the Monday Club for 1897-98 are: President, Mrs. A. C. Kinney; vice-president, Miss Sarah Cooper; secretary, Mrs. M. Y. Beaton; treasurer, Mrs. F. Cooper.

The Newark Review Club was organized in 1891, and joined the General Federation in 1893.

The first subject chosen for consideration was "The Religions of the World," and these were made subjects for papers rather than for close study. Two papers were prepared for each meeting; one upon a religion, the other upon a topic designated and assigned by a programme committee. After the first paper a recitation or music was in order. Following the second, current events were discussed and refreshments served.

During the first year, in place of original papers, two interesting talks were heard, to which guests were invited, one from a converted Mohammedan, and another upon the Jewish religion by Rabbi Weiss.

The club became a charter member of the State federation, and sends delegates to the conventions. It has an active membership of twenty-five, and is now organized under three committees. The president, 1896-97, was Mrs. Ida M. Tucker; secretary, Miss M. G. Wallace.

The Nomads, of Walnut Hills, were organized in 1887 for the study of history and literature. At first the programmes were miscellaneous and the topics suggested by the preferences of the members.

In 1891 a close study was made of the literature, art, and physical features of Germany, including a study of the Reformation: its results; the rise of Prussia and the Hohenzollern dynasty.

This was succeeded by a study of the United States: its history, literature, and general development. France in the nineteenth century was the subject for 1896-97.

The divisions of work are largely given to personages and events, and are diversified by short tours, which include the picturesque features of a neighborhood or the main points of interest in a great city.

The membership is limited to twenty-five; but there are open meetings once a month, to which guests may be invited. Music is a feature, and afternoon tea, which is occasional.

The Nomads were federated both in the State and General Federations in 1894, and issue charming year-books.

They send delegates to conventions, and keep in touch with the larger life through the reports. The elections are annual. The president for 1897 is Mrs. G. N. Eastman; vice-president, Miss E. Kemper; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. Clifford Miller.

The Noonday Club, of Toledo, was organized in November, 1889. Mrs. Lawrence Newman was its founder and first president.

The object of the club was mutual improvement through the study of literature, art, science, and the vital questions connected with these subjects in home and common life.

"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of." Its motto, derived from Benjamin Franklin, is: "Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time; for that's the stuff life is made of."

The symbol is a tall clock; the time of meetings, alternate Saturdays, beginning with November and ending with May. The membership remains as at first—twelve active, one associate. The president is still Mrs. Lawrence Newman, the founder; the secretary, Mrs. Jane Scott.

The Pilgrims, of Avondale, was founded in May, 1890, with seventeen charter members, and Mrs. J. A. Green, who was the founder, as the president.

The club has pursued a purely literary career for the seven years of its existence, the programmes including descriptive, historic, and biographical papers, with readings from the poets and good music. Conversation has been an important part of each meeting, and every member is expected to contribute to it.

The membership is limited to twenty-five, and they are thoroughly congenial. Their interest in the work is as eager and earnest as at the beginning. In fact, the interest has deepened with the years.

The Pilgrims joined the General Federation in 1894, and is a charter member of the State Federation.

Its president (1897) is Mrs. J. G. Ebersole, a member from the beginning, as are the majority upon the roll-call, only three having left the club, because of removal from the city.

The officers are: Vice-president, Mrs. S. Pogue; corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. Merrell.

There is a programme committee, which includes the president, a pronunciation committee, and a committee on membership.

The work of the year 1897 was a study of Spain and Portugal, including the Inquisition and the Spanish decadence in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries. Time and parliamentary usage are strictly observed by the Pilgrims.

The Pallas Club, of Athens, has been in existence something over three years, and has made satisfactory progress. Its official roster includes Martha A. Boughton, president (wife of Prof. Willis Boughton, of Ohio University); Miss Nan Linton, vice-president; Mrs. C. Hopkins, recording secretary; Mrs. (Prof.) D. J. Evans, corresponding secretary; Mrs. (Dr.) K. Tinker, treasurer; all of Athens. The limit of membership is forty-five. This was early reached,

and there are a number on the waiting list. This is an enterprising and up-to-date band of women, working for all that is best in life. The second and third anniversaries were celebrated with club tea, and were notable occasions for the beauty of the decorations, the high character of the exercises, and the social charm that at all times distinguishes the gatherings. The Pallas has been fortunate in its presidents and friends. Mrs. Carpenter, wife of the Senator, preceded Mrs. Boughton, and it can always rely upon contributions from members or the faculty of the university to give distinction to its occasions.

The Progress Club, of College Hill, Cincinnati, was founded in 1887 by



MRS. JENNIE O. DE GOLYER,
Founder Progress Club, College Hill, Ohio



MRS. LAURA C. TAYLOR,
Critic Progress Club, College Hill, Ohio

Mrs. J. O. De Golyer. It is a true "light seeker," a literary club, pure and simple, of a high order.

The outlines of work show skill, as well as culture, and are fascinating in their suggestion and arrangement.

The study of the Renaissance, particularly in 1894-95, is most picturesque and suggestive, and shows its splendor and influence like a series of flash-lights.

"England in the Age of Elizabeth" also is a series of fine studies of the time, and brilliant pictures of places and personages.

The studies of the general subject are diversified by special topics and occasional conversations on current events, but these last are always preceded by an intermission, to adjust the mind to new thought.

"The golden age is before us, not behind us."

The Progress Club was federated in 1892. Its president (1897) was Mrs. Laura V. Gano; its corresponding secretary, Miss Katherine Hunt. The critic is Mrs. Laura C. Taylor, a woman of broad culture, whose work in the club could hardly be replaced.

Sidney is a town of not more than ten thousand inhabitants, and its name is not found in the lists of the General Federation, but it has several interesting, active clubs, the oldest of which began in October, 1878, as a Shakespeare Club with eight members, five others joining the group later and constituting the charter membership. The object was reading for improvement and social culture. The meetings were held weekly at the homes of members, and other names were added, bringing the roll-call up to eighteen. No formal organization was planned or effected. The members adhere to the simple form of their original coming together, and have maintained their life for twenty years. The principal work has centred around Shakespeare, but other themes and other authors have had a place, and the study has been of a character that has had a very broadening and uplifting influence upon the minds of the members.

The Unity Club began in 1881. It was the outcome of two small literary groups, and started with seven members. One of these moving away, the six remaining decided to double their number by each securing an additional member and putting the limit at twelve. This limit has been adhered to.

The meetings are weekly, on Friday afternoons. Twice in the year, the husbands or, friends of members are invited to participate in the social and literary programme. The study has been largely historical, with incursions into art and literature. In 1897 the club took the University Extension course. It has two honorary members, Miss Conklin and Mrs. Bethel-Cole.

The Junior Shakespeare Club was the outgrowth, in 1887, of the original Shakespeare Club, or, more exactly, of an effort on the part of the daughters of the members of the first club to form a club of their own. Other young women were invited to join them, and an organization was effected, with Miss Jean Mathers, president; Miss Hitchcock, secretary; and a charter membership of sixteen. Five of the original members have made their homes in different parts of the State. Only six of the first sixteen are now workers in the ranks, and the number of honorary members is nine.

In 1896 the club undertook the work laid out in the University Extension course. It comprehended nation-building in the nineteenth century, and the great questions of the age, such as socialism, utilitarianism, and æsthetics, together with miscellaneous work and some of Shakespeare's plays. Its season closes in April, to begin again in September, 1897.

The officers are : Miss Robertson, president ; Mrs. Donaldson, vice-president ; and Mrs. Wagner, secretary and treasurer.

The New Century Club, formerly known as the Century Club, was organized by the combined efforts of nine young women in 1889. The original members were Mrs. Eliza D. Gilfillan, Miss Elinor H. Ingersoll, Miss Estelle Metcalf, Miss Lucille Metcalf, Mrs. Louise B. Mathers, Mrs. Martha O. Yarnell, Mrs. Anna F. Tenney, Mrs. May F. Lyon, and Mrs. Agnes L. Piper. Of these but one is in the club at the present time, Mrs. Anna F. Tenney.

The object, as stated in the constitution, is "the literary and artistic culture of its members and the pursuance of the study of the general history of all nations by centuries." The plan of studying by centuries has not been strictly adhered to, but the work has been very good. The political history, the literature, the religion, the manners and customs, and geographical character of the country, are dealt with in the papers, readings, and conversations, which constitute the work of the club.

In March, 1890, it joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and was represented at the council in East Orange, and the biennial in Chicago in 1892. The inspiration of those great gatherings impelled the Century Club, in connection with the Junior Shakespeare, to invite a meeting in Sidney of the presidents of federated clubs of Ohio.

This was so successful that Miss Elinor Ingersoll, then president of the Century Club, wrote to a number of Ohio clubs, advocating a State federation. The majority were not then in favor of such a step, and it was not until two and a half years later that the present Ohio federation of clubs was formed. In 1896 the Century Club withdrew from the General and united with the State federation, leaving Sidney without direct representation in the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The Fortnightly was formed in 1893 by a number of men and women for a twofold purpose, viz.: literary culture, and the culture and enjoyment of the amenities of social life. The second article of the constitution is as follows : " The object of this society shall be twofold : First, the promotion of a true and varied culture among its members ; and second, the cultivation of the graces of social life."

For the last year the club has been in a state of suspended animation, but it can be resuscitated at the will of the members.

The Tourists is the latest formed club. It is a small club, its object the pleasure of foreign travel, while obliged to remain at home.

The Travellers' Club, of Springfield, was organized in 1888. Mrs. A. B. Murphy was its founder. The first meeting was held November 1st, and at this meeting the name and course of study were decided upon. The first year the club travelled through England, Scotland, and Wales, following

in general outline the programme prepared by Mrs. Huggins for the Nomad Club, of Mansfield.

The membership was limited to thirty, twenty-four of these members being still on the roll. The limit of membership was early changed to forty, and in 1896 ten associate members were added to the list. The original plan has been abandoned after several years spent in the study of Continental Europe and two years in America.

Though the club programme has included some topics of general interest, it was not until 1896 that the department system was adopted. The programme for 1896-97 was arranged under three heads: history, literature, and topics of the time. These have each their own chairman, and together they form the Executive Committee of the club. Aside from the pleasure and profit which each individual member has enjoyed, the Travellers' Club has done much for Springfield.

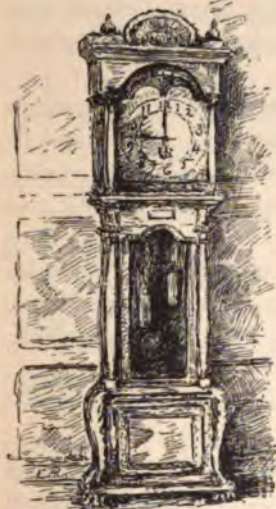
It has brought such distinguished lecturers as Amelia B. Edwards, George W. Cable, Mrs. Custer, and others, and has placed in the Warder Library a handsome hall clock, standing nine feet high, and enclosed in an antique oak case, the movement made in London, England. Through the influence of this club a number of clubs have been organized and successfully carried on.

The Travellers' Club early recognized the value of organization, and was the fourth club in Ohio to join the General Federation, and has sent enthusiastic delegates to each biennial.

Mrs. E. L. Buchwalter, a member of this club, has been State chairman of correspondence since 1894, and she was chairman of the committee appointed at the biennial at Philadelphia to form a State federation in Ohio. Upon the invitation of the federated clubs of this city the convention met in Springfield, and here was formed the Ohio State Federation. This occasion was a great success, both from a social and business standpoint, and



MRS. ALICE B. MURPHY,
Founder and First President Travellers'
Club, Springfield, Ohio



CLOCK PRESENTED BY TRAVELLERS'
CLUB TO WARDER LIBRARY

was an occasion long to be remembered by both the members of the Springfield clubs and their guests. The president of the Travellers' Club, 1896-97, was Mrs. J. B. Cartmell; the federation secretary, Mrs. C. B. Buchwalter.

The Tuesday Club, of Springfield, was organized in November, 1893, and federated in 1895. Its founder was Miss Blanche Essex Phillips, and the object was the study of literature and the discussion of the vital questions of the day.



MRS. BLANCHE ESSEX PHILLIPS,
Founder Tuesday Club, Springfield, Ohio

"Palma non sine pulvere." The charter membership was sixteen, which has since been increased to its limit, thirty.

The course of study has been mainly historical. The first year was given to the history of the United States, the second to England, the third to France, and the fourth to the British Isles.

One meeting in four is given to a conversation on current events.

The club colors are yellow and violet; club flowers, Maréchal Niel rose and violet.

The Travellers' Club, of Mansfield, was organized in 1887. Mrs. O. P. Huggins has been the leader from the beginning, and has outlined all the programmes and calendars. In its imaginary journeys with guide books, maps and plans, travellers' books and photographs, the club has travelled over the British Isles, France, Switzerland, Italy, Spain, Greece, and Egypt, studying in connection with famous places their legendary, historical, and literary associations.

With 1895, a two-year study of the history and literature of Germany was begun, which has been carefully and thoroughly pursued. The last half hour of every meeting is given to current topics, new books, new discoveries, and social questions. These have of late assumed greater importance, and more time is given to them.

The club began with very slight organization, but in 1892 it put its rules into the shape of a constitution and by-laws, made its leader its president, and set up a board of officers. It then joined the General Federation, and sent delegates to the biennials of 1892, 1894, and 1896.

The club is a charter member of the Ohio State Federation, its president being the recording secretary.

Many of the club have been travellers in reality, finding themselves better prepared for travel by their study together, and coming back enriched by sights and experiences in foreign lands and among strange peoples.

The social element has always been prominent in the club. There has been much good talk over tea-cups and around luncheon-tables. This does not mean that programme work has been neglected. The topics are treated sometimes in papers, and sometimes in oral expositions of the subject; but the aim is to discuss them in conversation rather than in papers or essays.

On rare occasions the club has entertained its friends with a lecture, and more often has invited the husbands and friends to an evening meeting, a valentine party, or rhyming bout for prizes.

From twenty-one the club has grown to thirty and is limited to that number. Since its organization many other clubs have been formed, literary, historical, travelling, art, and musical, till Mansfield has become a city of numerous clubs and societies.

Six of Mansfield's clubs belong to the Ohio State Federation, and entertained that body on the occasion of its first annual meeting in October, 1895.

The programmes of the Travellers' Club have a national reputation, and have been in demand from many other clubs in different parts of the country. They represent art and literature as well as history and travel.

The present officers are: President, Mrs. W. J. Huggins; vice-president, Mrs. John Simpson; recording secretary and treasurer, Miss Elizabeth Wood; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Reid Carpenter.

The following letter summarizes the work of Mrs. Huggins in forming other clubs:

"We came home from Kansas in 1880, and I had that year the first and last year of leisure I ever knew. We boarded and had no interruptions. The autumn of 1881 I started classes in English history and literature, studying first an epoch of history, and then the heroes, statesmen, authors, and bards that belonged to the epoch. First the niches, and then the statues in them.

"In 1887 a group of ladies talked of taking imaginary journeys—a 'travel' club—and I made the topics for the first few sessions and found I had to keep it up. This first group called themselves Travellers, and still are a flourishing club, eighteen of the twenty-one charter members still belonging to it. We now have a membership of thirty, with eight honorary members



MRS. OZELLAH PHELPS HUGGINS,
President of Travellers' Club, Mans-
field, Ohio

(those who move away from town). Of late years we have more history of the countries than at first, more of their mythology, art, letters, and progress.

"In 1888 I organized the Nomads, and led them for two years. When they elected to make their own topics, I led the club, though they had an organization with officers. (I have been the president of the Travellers since its beginning).

"In 1889 I organized the Round Table, with thirty-five members, and have led it ever since, though they have always had a fine set of officers.

"In 1892 I formed the Century (called Sixteenth Century for five years). This was a history club from the first, thirty-five members. In 1894 I formed the Klionian, studying history of art (fine art). It only lived two years, and succumbed to 'card' fever. In 1895 I formed the Sappho Club, which took studies in poetry and music. Thirty-five members, flourishing, good music and good criticism of music, and poetry relating to music and refinement.

"An evening club—study American literature for two years—Saturday Club, and a new one, the Victorian, which has this year taken up the history and literature of the Victorian era, complete the list, except the classes in 'summer conversations,' which were only discontinued on account of ill health.

"OZELLAH P. HUGGINS."

The Tourists, of Price Hill, Cincinnati, a very successful travel club, received its early inspiration from the Tourists of Cedar Rapids, Iowa, through a visiting member, Mrs. C. A. Turrell.



The club was organized in 1884, and counts, therefore, fifteen years of active working life.

After travelling about Europe in a somewhat general way for two years, the Tourists settled down for a year in Germany, studying music, literature, and art. The fourth year they gave to a more thorough enjoyment of Italy and England. Then patriotism led them to devote two years to their own country. During this time they also visited Can-

ada, made the fashionable trip to Alaska, and had a very satisfactory glimpse of Mexico.

A tour of South America was then planned by Miss Kate Leslie Moore, Miss H. K. Phillips, and Miss L. W. Price. High praise came to the club for this programme, an account of which was published in a daily paper. This resulted in an offer from the Bureau of American Republics at Washing-

ton to send their publications to each member of the club to assist the studies, an offer gratefully accepted.

The programme is prepared during the three months of the summer recess. The committee, acting with the president, has full power to map out the route and assign the work. The work of this committee is considered the most difficult and important that can be given to a member; but each in turn has declared herself well repaid for her labor by the thorough knowledge of interesting countries gained in the necessarily studious preparation.

The half-hour conversation is, perhaps, the most interesting part of the work to an outsider.

Among the Tourists it is considered a more difficult task to lead a conversation than to write a paper. It is necessary to be prepared at all points, for the member depended upon for an especially important part may prove disappointing.

The regular meetings are fortnightly, in the afternoon, but there are four "open" meetings during the year, that are held in the evening, when each member can bring a guest. Interesting sketches of personages and places are given at these meetings, and music plays an important part.

The Tourists have always taken a warm interest in other clubs, and in the spread of the club idea, and are justly proud of the many clubs which have followed their lead, not only in their own city, but in other cities also. The Nomads, of Walnut Hills, Cincinnati, gracefully acknowledged their indebtedness to the pioneer Cincinnati club, by inviting the officers of the Tourists to enjoy one of their charming Italian programmes and a reception which followed.

Rotation in office is considered necessary by the Tourists to bring out latent force and talent, and this plan has been followed.

The president, 1897, was Miss Blanchard; secretary, Miss Ada H. Riley.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Portsmouth, was antedated by a history class which began in January, 1877.

It consisted of a group of ladies who met for study in the pleasant drawing-room of Mrs. Mary Switzer Moore, who was the originator and practical leader.

The class had no constitution and no formal organization, but its meetings were pleasant and profitable, and continued for five years without interruption.

Somewhat desultory in the beginning, the work gradually took on a more serious form. French, English, and American history, Shakespeare's historical plays, and certain periods in English literature were outlined upon annual programmes.

At a later date, early in 1891, some members of the class met with other



MRS. MARY S. MOORE,
Founder History Class, Portsmouth, Ohio



MISS GRACE G. COTTON,
First President Woman's Literary Club,
Portsmouth, Ohio

ladies at the home of Mrs. J. G. Reed, and after suggestive talk, and upon motion of Miss Grace Gaylord Cotton, organized the Woman's Literary Club with Miss Cotton as its first president.

*"The more we think,
the more we live."* The officers elected for 1891-92, besides Miss Cotton, were: Vice-president, Kate Doane Kinney; secretary, Carrie Coe Greene; treasurer, Mary Switzer Moore; Executive Committee, Grace Gaylord Cotton, Annie M. Reed, Lydia Greene Johnson, Mary L. Hope, Julia Holmes Beyerly.

The constitution stated as the object, to widen the outlook of women, to keep them in touch with the present, and to make them more familiar with their great inheritance, "the past."

The work has been mainly historic and literary, with discussion of current events as part of every programme.

Special topics are, however, assigned, and symposiums of club members have treated, in papers, and by discussion, "The Ideal Club," "The Modern Novel," "Artist Writers," "The Artistic in Modern Life," "How the Ideal May be Applied to the Practical," and others.

The club has a library of its own, and its published list of reference books is comprehensive and well selected, yet such as may always be found in the public library or club list.

The presidents have been Grace Gaylord Cotton, 1891 to 1895; Pauline R. Esselbaum; and Julia W. Alger. The chairman of the Executive Committee is Mrs. M. N. Firmstone, and there is a Pronunciation Committee of

three members, Mary Adams Draper, Ida May Briggs, Helen Augusta Cadot. The present officers are: President, Julia W. Alger; vice-president, Elida Kline; secretary, Anna E. Purdum; treasurer, Lena R. Labold.

The club sent as delegates to the biennial convention of the Federation of Women's Clubs at Chicago, Mrs. H. E. Greene and Miss Lillian Johnson; to Philadelphia, Miss Alice Duduit; to Louisville, Ky., Miss Grace G. Cotton; to the State federation assembly at Mansfield, Mrs. Mary A. Draper; to Cleveland, Mrs. Mary S. Moore and Miss Anna R. Ross of the committee.

The Woman's Literary Club, of Urbana, was founded in 1893 by Mrs. A.



MRS. MARY DEUEL,
Founder Literary Club, Urbana, Ohio



MISS FLORA AYERS,
First President Woman's Literary Club, Urbana, Ohio

C. Deuel, who invited a number of ladies to meet at her home to consider the plan of a woman's literary club.

An organization was effected, and Miss Flora Ayers was chosen president. The charter membership was composed of fifty earnest, enthusiastic workers. The studies were in history, art, literature, and current topics, with a later addition of regular parliamentary drill.

The broadening work and vigorous growth took the club into the State and General Federations, strengthening its influence in every direction. The field of usefulness has increased with every step taken, and desire has been stimulated to work towards whatever tends to purify and elevate the home, the city, and the State.

The club colors are green and white, and the emblem maiden-hair fern.

The president, 1897, was Mrs. W. A. Cool; Federation Committee, E. Slifer, Mary Deuel, Frances Griswold.

The Woman's Club, of Xenia, was founded in 1867 as a reading circle, with a membership of twelve. The limit of membership was put at twenty-five, but it has never reached that number. The founder of the club was Mrs. Miriam A. Merrick, still an active member, and a woman of broad, progressive intelligence.



MRS. MIRIAM A. MERRICK,
Founder Woman's Club, Xenia, Ohio

In the beginning of 1869 the name of woman's club was adopted, notwithstanding vigorous opposition. A charter member tells how she opposed the name and voted against it, feeling it to be a "very bold and most unwomanly innovation." Two members were lost by this action, reducing the number to ten; but the older members still speak with pride of a lecture course under the management of the club during the winter of 1869-70, three of the lecturers being Anna Dickinson, Paul du Chaillu, and Theodore Tilton. The president introduced the lecturers, Mr. Tilton remarking that "it was the first time he had

ever been introduced from the platform by a woman."

The membership has varied during the years from ten to fifteen, but has acquired an influence far greater than its size. It has had some notable presidents, among them Mrs. Mary E. Coates Kinney, and others "More light," not mentioned because there is no record, the club never having had a year-book or printed programme.

Annual reunions are held, and a cordial hospitality extended to visiting club women. On one of these occasions Mr. Charles R. Merrick, the husband of the founder, said to a guest that he considered "the woman's club the finest influence that had been brought into women's lives."

The Woman's Press Club, of Cincinnati, is one of the oldest of the Women's Press Clubs of the United States. It was organized in August, 1888, by eight of the women writers of Cincinnati, "Each for all, all for each." in the parlor of the Gibson House. Within two years it grew to about forty members, all writers or professionally connected with journalism. The president was Mrs. Alice Williams Brotherton, author and journalist, a very graceful and vigorous writer, who subsequently wrote the "Buckeye," song, adopted by the State federation, and was one of the leading spirits in its formation.

The programme for each meeting of the Press Club is prepared by a committee, a month in advance. It includes an essay on some literary topic, and

two papers—one practical, from the journalist's point of view ; the second, a poem or story. At one of the meetings (1892), "Aunt Silvia," a story by Frances W. Gibson, was enhanced by the author's beautiful reading. In "Second-hand Books," by Alice Williams Brotherton, "What is worse than to be a lover of books and not own them—unless it be to own books and not love them?" was a query propounded and answered by Mrs. Brotherton in her own inimitable way. The last half hour is given to discussion, which has become a strong point with the club. During the second year, the place of meeting was changed from the Gibson House to the parlors of the Lincoln Club. The constitution and programmes were put in print, and a working knowledge obtained of parliamentary law.

The motto "Each for all, all for each," is the evidence of a spirit of true fellowship and desire to work earnestly and all together for the best that is to be obtained through club life. The active membership is now fifty-one. The president is Miss M. E. Thalheimer ; the secretary, Miss S. M. Houghton.

Les Voyageurs, of Avondale, was organized November 6, 1889. The idea of a study club had been considered for some months by four women, Mrs. Duckworth, Mrs. Warrington, Mrs. Hariston, and Mrs. Robertson. These ladies decided to invite thirty of the most cultivated and representative women of the place to unite in forming a club for the study of history, literature, and art.

The organization was effected under the above name ; and the first voyage taken was outlined under the head of Germany. Since then Les Voyageurs have gone over much fruitful ground, trying as far as possible to identify themselves with the thought, the spirit, and actual life of the times, the people, and the places they have visited. Although obliged to omit much, the club has the gratification of knowing that it stands for sincerity and earnestness in its work, and that it has been a real benefit in broadening the minds and strengthening the best elements in the character of the membership.

The first president was Mrs. Professor French ; the president for 1897 is Mrs. F. Schmidt ; the secretary, Mrs. C. B. Robertson, one of the originators

The 1890 Club, of Tiffin, has had an honorable career of seven consecutive years as its name implies. Its studies have been "*An ideal world* ; in history, art, literature, and music, with a short time *and yet the world* given at each meeting to a conversation upon current *we live in.*" events.

The programmes have been varied, usually including two papers, each followed by a conversation, either suggested by the paper,



MRS. J. F. WAGNER,
President of 1890 Club, Tiffin, Ohio

or upon some special topic. A great deal of attention has been paid to German art and literature, to English history and literature, and especially to English history as it relates to the United States.

The membership consists of forty active and twelve honorary members.

The president is Mrs. J. F. Wagner; and a member who has done much good work for the club is Mrs. S. B. Sneath, the treasurer of the Ohio State Federation.

A quotation in the year-book of 1896-97 "*To know well.*" expresses, perhaps, the quality of the 1890 Club: "Faithful endeavor has not been wanting on our part; nor, singular as it may seem, the strictest regard to chronology, geography, and what else true historical research would yield."

The Woman's Century Club, of the National Cash Registry Company, of Dayton, has a membership of one hundred and eighty-four young women, all of whom are connected with the company.

It is an interesting fact that these young women desired to add to their daily intercourse in business companionship in an effort to promote the general intellectual and social welfare.

The work of the Century Club is divided into three sections, musical, literary, and educational.

It is proposed to have a certain number of the meetings open, and entertain reciprocal relations with other women's clubs.

The Woman's Century Club has been warmly greeted by the Woman's Literary Club, of Dayton, and is federated.

Miss Clara Hertzner is the president, and Alabama McClure, secretary.

Women's Clubs in Oregon

THE club life of women in Oregon is still in a formative condition, as it is yet without central or State organization. The local club life is, however, active and diversified, and the number of clubs constantly increasing.

In 1897 the State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation, Mrs. C. B. Wade, reported knowledge of but fifteen clubs, the majority doing advanced work on various lines, but owing to the great distances intervening between the individual clubs, each is in a measure isolated and obliged to gain by experience much that otherwise would be learned by contact with or observation of others. Mrs. Wade writes: "We greatly need the help that comes from organization. There is a growing sentiment in favor of State federation, and we hope to have a delegation from Oregon's State Federation at the next biennial. There are now three clubs having a membership in the General Federation. These were admitted in the following order: The Thursday Afternoon Club, of Pendleton, in 1894; the Neighborhood Club, of La Grande, in January, 1896; the Portland Woman's Club, in March, 1896. Each of these clubs has several departments, the Neighborhood Club, of La Grande, being perhaps in the lead. The Portland Woman's Club is probably the largest in the State, reporting an active membership of one hundred and twenty-five. This club issues a printed calendar, or year-book, and is so far the only one to send a year-book to the State chairman. The other clubs, small in membership and with small membership fees, have thus far depended on written, or at best typewritten, programmes.

"The women's clubs here, as elsewhere, represent the thoughtful, earnest, educated women of the community; women not satisfied to lead lives given up to frivolity or drudgery, as the case may be, without interest in or knowledge of the great questions and movements of the day. Here, as everywhere, the club woman is the better wife and mother and citizen for her active participation in the study and work required by her club. Nearly all the clubs began work from five to ten years ago as simple reading clubs, but most of them have grown into other work, have become classes for real study in various lines, including literature, art, civics, music, education, and household economics.

"In Pendleton, the home of the 'mother club,' there are numerous

clubs, some of the names indicating the line of work taken up. They are 'The T. A. C.' (mother club), with departments of literature, art, and music, the belles-lettres, Greek history, art, and literature. The Nineteenth Century Club studies the literature of this century. The History Class has been studying history for something like ten years, beginning with the oldest civilizations and coming down through the centuries, doing very thorough work and now studying England in the eighteenth century. This club is one of our best. The St. Cecilia Club studies the lives and works of the old masters. There are some fine amateur performers in this club. The members of this and the Pendleton Musical Club have done much to cultivate in the city a taste for good music. Their public entertainments, given once a year, are feasts of good things, much enjoyed by those fortunate enough to have a card of invitation. All of the clubs have occasional social evenings, when the husbands, sons, and brothers are entertained. These occasions are justly popular with the gentlemen.

"The La Grande clubs are the Neighborhood Club, with departments of literature, home, education, and economics, and the Musical Club, with high aims and a prospective membership in the General Federation. The work of these clubs is of the highest grade.

"In Portland, so far as heard from, are three clubs. The Portland Woman's Club is the largest in the State, with departments of literature, education, and music, and others under consideration. We look to this club for valuable help in the matter of State federation. Having its home in the metropolis of the State, having the longest list of members, its officers will have many advantages of experience in larger organization. The Twentieth Century Club is a small, vigorous organization, studying the countries of the world, their attainments and condition at the present time in all that pertains to life and happiness; a club with one rule, viz.: 'Each member shall be present at every meeting of the club, with her paper prepared on the subject given her, or be dropped from the roll; severe sickness the only acceptable excuse.'

"Baker City has a woman's club; work, literary and social, with the social feature dominating.

"Corvallis has reported two clubs. One, unique among our women's clubs—The Firemen's Coffee Club. This club has eighty members, and has celebrated its thirteenth anniversary. Its original object was to furnish coffee to firemen during the progress of fires, and it still exists for this object, but has added literary and social aims. The Thirteen Club, of the same city, has been organized five years, and studies history, art, and political economy.

"There are doubtless many more clubs in the State. Our area is great,

and the information comes slowly. The women of Oregon are not less bright and alert intellectually than are their sisters in other States, and those among us that have had opportunities of seeing club work elsewhere are our most enthusiastic club women."

Mrs. Wade addressed the following suggestive letter to the clubs of her State: "The General Federation of Women's Clubs has an officer in each State, known as the State chairman of correspondence. This officer's duty is to inform herself concerning all the women's clubs in the State; to interest them, if possible, in the aims and work of the General Federation; to assist in any way she can in forming new clubs; to furnish all clubs desiring them with programmes of study, copies of constitutions, or any other printed matter issued by the General Federation.

"Mrs. C. B. Wade was Oregon's first State chairman, and was reappointed at the biennial meeting of the General Federation at Louisville, Ky., last May. There are three clubs in this State belonging to the General Federation, but the State chairman is interested in all clubs, and would welcome a correspondence from each and every one in the State; she has thus far been able to learn of only about a dozen, and feels sure that there must be many more to hear from.

"Many of the States have State federations, and our own great State should not be the last to organize such a federation.

"Women's clubs, wherever they exist, are helpful in furthering the best interests of society. The club woman is the better wife and mother for the broadening influence of her club.

"The State chairman earnestly wishes for and cordially invites the coöperation of all the clubs in the State; without this she can do very little.

"ADELIA D. WADE."



MRS. ADELIA D. WADE,

State Chairman of Correspondence, Oregon

Mrs. Charles Bird Wade, Oregon's State chairman, was born in Maine, and comes of an old New England family. Her great-grandfathers were among the fighters for American independence, and went to Maine with the early settlers of that State at the close of the Revolution. Her maternal grandfather was a soldier of the War of 1812; an uncle served in the Mexican War, and four uncles in the Civil War.

Her childhood was spent in a home where "plain living and high thinking" was the order of the day. All the great social, theological, and political reforms and questions of that day were talked over and discussed in her father's house, as in all New England homes. She grew up in an atmosphere charged with the enthusiasm and moral purposes brought into life by the Civil War, and laughingly tells of the sorrow she felt because she was a little girl, and could not "go to the war!"

Like many other club women, Mrs. Wade is an accomplished housekeeper, but, more than all, a home-maker. She is an inspiration to her husband, the loving, careful guardian of her sons, and a true and faithful friend. Mrs. Wade has always been an advocate of the higher intellectual development of women, and a lover of the best literature. She adds to her many other qualities that of being a writer of no mean ability.

Early in their married life Mr. and Mrs. Wade left their home in Massachusetts and came to the Pacific coast, and joined their fortunes with those pioneers who are said to have come West to grow up with the country, but of whom it would be much truer to say that they have made the country grow with them. Pendleton has been Mrs. Wade's home since 1880, though she has spent a part of the time in New England, thus keeping herself in touch with life and thought in the far East. In Pendleton her husband and herself are identified with all the movements that work for the advancement of a city, whether intellectual or material.

Mrs. Wade has been an interested, earnest, and untiring club worker, and when the Thursday Afternoon Club, of which she is a member, was admitted to the General Federation of Women's Clubs, as the mother club of Oregon, she was unanimously chosen as the State chairman of correspondence.

The Thursday Afternoon Club, of Pendleton, is known as the "mother" club of Oregon. It owes its inception to Mrs. A. D. Wade, who had been familiar with women's clubs at the East, and saw the need of similar organizations in her new environment.

Though not the largest, it is the most brilliant of the women's clubs of the State, and its membership forms an active element in the club life outside of its own club work.

The Thursday Afternoon Club is not a class for study. Its subjects are of a miscellaneous character, but chiefly derived from literary, art, and ethical sources. One of the programmes in 1897 had "Beauty" for its subject, with the following quotation as a starting-point:

"If I its meaning could define,
Or form in words the thing it is,
God's omniscience would be mine,
And I a bard divine."



THURSDAY AFTERNOON CLUB

1. MRS. PARALEE HALEY, First President
2. MRS. A. D. STILLMAN, Third President
3. MRS. J. P. DICKSON, Second President
4. MRS. ROSA FEE, Fourth President
5. MRS. CLARA T. BURROUGHS, Recording Secretary
6. MISS BELLE BISHOP, Corresponding Secretary
7. MRS. LILLIAN GULLIFORD SMITH, Delegate to Biennial of 1896

The roll-call was answered by quotations upon beauty, and the subjects divided into the following parts, represented by as many members:

"Derivation and definition of the word"; "Color, form, motion—simple or complex expressions of beauty"; "Beauty of face; what constitutes it?" "The fundamental principle of beauty"; "Ode to beauty"; "Can a creation of art, portraying a hideous theme, be properly termed beautiful?" "Which could the world better afford to do without, the useful or the beautiful?" "Is there of necessity a moral element in beauty; or can beauty be simply beauty without appealing to the moral sense of the beholder?" "What would be the result of the elimination of the beautiful from society; barbarism or what?" "The arts that beautify and polish life; what are they?" "Which are more beautiful, beauties of nature or beauties of art?" "Do women beautify themselves for men, or for the women, or to gratify their own vanity?"

The Thursday Afternoon Club has set the example for other clubs in the State, of celebrating its anniversaries by a dinner to which gentlemen are invited.

A local paper said, on the first of these occasions, "that evidently one of the missions of the new woman was to teach man how to dine eloquently without wine."

The president, Mrs. J. R. Dickson, was conceded to make an admirable presiding officer, introducing the guests, gentlemen as well as ladies, with appropriate words, emphasized by apt quotations and witty personal references.



MRS. JENNIE E. WRIGHT,
President Twentieth Century Club, Portland,
Ore.

At the close Col. E. D. Boyd proposed, on behalf of the male guests, a toast in honor of the organization which had made hospitality so delightful.

The club colors are pink and white; the motto, "Vires acquirit eundo"—Englished, "She (Rumor) acquires strength in her progress."

The Twentieth Century Club, of Portland, was started in 1893 by Mrs. Jennie E. Wright, who had lived in New York and also in Chicago before removing to Portland, Ore. The object in the beginning was strictly study, and the membership, therefore, was limited to ten women, who were bound by a rigid rule to be present at every meeting and perform the work assigned them, except in case of severe illness.

The plan of study was to take the different countries of the world in turn, explore each thoroughly, its art, literature, climate, people, productions, history, and geographical position. The aim was not so much literary form as comprehensive view, clearness, and accuracy. The interest of the work not only brought together some of the ablest women of Portland, but has created a long list to draw from in case the limit of membership should be withdrawn.

One of the surprises from the president was the furnishing of the following sentence as the subject for oral talks from every member: "What I remember of Spain from papers read, excepting my own."

This was at the close of the work in Spain.

The members had no notes, but on the spur of the moment furnished recollections that summarized most admirably the work that everybody else had done.

The membership is very varied. Mrs. Wright has travelled much abroad; Mrs. Hirsch is the wife of the ex-Minister to Austria; Mrs. Young and Mrs. Taft are both Massachusetts women; Mrs. Wells is from Virginia, and Mrs. Dodd an old resident of Oregon. Mrs. Crawford is a book reviewer for a local paper, and a comparatively recent acquisition.

A memorable occasion was a gathering of the club at the residence of Mrs. Hirsch.

The afternoon was devoted to the city of Vienna; and the hostess, who gave the leading paper, was able from personal experiences to furnish a detailed description of its points of interest, illustrated by fifty large photographs. In addition, a fine collection of Austrian works of art in china, glass, and embroideries was brought out, with many charming "bits" and experiences that an educated and appreciative woman brings home from foreign lands. The refreshments were served on Vienna china, with Vienna napkins and table decorations, except the flowers, making it truly "an afternoon in Vienna."

The Woman's Club, of Portland, was less than a year old when it joined the General Federation, in March, 1896, with an active membership of one hundred and twenty-five women. From the beginning it was organized for departmental work, with history, art, literature, and other sections, to which a Committee on Household Economics was shortly added. The first president was Mrs. J. C. Card.

The work done has been of excellent quality, practical, and showing the cultivated intelligence of educated modern women. One of the practical papers was upon the cultivation of flax as specially adapted to the climatic conditions of the States of Oregon and Washington.

Other papers have dealt with "Household Sanitation," "Reading for

Children," "The Concord Writers," "Greek Literature," "A Comparative Study of Art," and other topics, each followed by discussion, which awakened the liveliest interest.

The constitution states the object, "to foster friendly relations, and secure concert of action in intellectual, philanthropic, and social activities." Meetings are bi-monthly, and all topics are open to discussion except politics, sectarian religion, and the temperance propaganda.

Besides the departments there are classes in the French and German languages, and parliamentary law.

Some of the subjects discussed have been: "Women's Clubs," "Women in the Nineteenth Century," "Modern Genius as Compared with that of Ancient Times," "Studies of Dante," "The Brownings," "Longfellow," and other poets, "Our Educational System," "Hygiene of Dress," "The Germ Theory," "The Oratorio," "Mendelssohn, and His Work," and the "Women of Shakespeare."

On the 29th of May, 1896, "Memorial" day, the club entertained the town, men as well as women. The music was by a fine local quartette, and eloquent addresses were made by Col. James Jackson and Mr. J. P. Burkhardt. Mrs. A. S. Duniway read an original poem, and there was a fine reading of James Whitcomb Riley's "Decoration Day at the Farm," supplemented by Eugene Field's "Little Boy Blue." The day was memorable to the entire community, and excited enthusiasm.

The membership of the Woman's Club consists of physicians, teachers, homekeepers, and homemakers, artists, business women, women of society, stenographers, college graduates, and self-educated women. All are actuated by more or less of a purpose, and there is also the picturesque new woman and her bicycle.

One of the members, who teaches languages and has classes in belles-lettres, was asked how she could spare the time to attend club meetings; she replied, "Why, it is an inspiration; I cannot remain away. We meet, not alone for pleasure, or even mental development, but to compare views, plans of work, and thus become more truly acquainted with each other, and better, happier women."

The musical talent in the club is put to good use, and is a feature of the programmes. The subject of State federation is actively discussed, and the Woman's Club will probably be the medium through which the State clubs will be brought together. Mrs. Levi Young has succeeded Mrs. Card as presiding officer.

The Neighborhood Club, of La Grande, existed till recently as an informal gathering of women interested in literary work and the questions of the day, but, previous to January, 1896, without organization. At that time

it was felt by the more thoughtful and intelligent that a certain order and systematized plan of work would be far more fruitful of results, without in any way lessening the social enjoyment of the coming together.

A constitution was adopted, and a committee appointed to outline the study work of the year and assign its divisions to the various members.

American history, American literature, and civil government have been the general topics, followed by biographical studies of great men, and a roll-call of quotations relating to the person or the subject under discussion.

Occasional social events, in which gentlemen participate, are greatly enjoyed, and usually take some special form of literary or historic significance.

The club is constantly growing and the work becoming of better quality.

The study of parliamentary law has been recently introduced, and there is every prospect of enlarged usefulness.

The Neighborhood was founded by Mrs. J. L. Cavana, who was also its first president.

The Musical Club, of Portland, is an important factor in the musical life and also in the growth of musical culture in the city. Its studies and practice have already resulted in public recitals which command large audiences, and are anticipated as social features. The most interesting of these have furnished sacred programmes of a high order, and the first won such hearty commendation that the "sacred recital" has become a yearly event. The hour of meeting is half-past three, to enable school-teachers and older girls to be present and bring the young under the influence of good music.

To quote William Apthorp, "Works of a true, lofty genius cannot fail to have their purifying and elevating effect upon all who are amenable to musical influences, sooner to some, later to others.

"Mystic," or Crater Lake is one of the wonders of the world, as well as of Oregon. It is so inaccessible that it is very little known even to the people of the State in which it is found. It is probably a volcano sunken in water, which forms now an elliptical-shaped basin about five miles long, surrounded by unbroken cliff-walls ranging from five hundred to two thousand feet in height.

The lake is subject to intermittent eruptions, which show that the volcanic



MRS. J. L. CAVANA,
Founder and First President Neighborhood Club, La Grande, Ore.

force still exists, and was originally a part of the gigantic old volcano of which Mount Scott is a portion of the eastern rim, all the rest having been carried away by erosion and other causes.

The lake is three miles wide, and deserves the popular name of "Mystic," its size, position, and appearance suggesting a depth of hidden meanings.

Pennsylvania

The Story of the New Century Club of Philadelphia.—Miss Louise Stockton wrote of the New Century Club: "When Joubert says, 'There are souls, lovers of light, who, having an idea, brood over it long, wait patiently, and then—it *shines*,' he gives the story of this club."

The need of a common ground where women could meet, had been frequently discussed early in the seventies, by a group of women, and, as the idea grew, many reasons were suggested for such an organization.

Women who lived out of town wanted the convenience of a room when they desired to remain in the city for a lecture or a dinner party. The women who lived in the city had a variety of plans if they could be carried out. Then came the Exposition of 1876, and it was agreed that nothing could be undertaken until it was over.

The Exposition closed in October. Early in January a meeting was called in the parlors of Mrs. J. Peter Leslie, and from thirty to forty women assembled.

It was well understood by this time that a club was needed, and there was little discussion excepting as to details. But the godchildren of the New Century Club in different parts of the country may like to know how the name originated.

In the Woman's Building of the Philadelphia Exposition, printing was among the industries carried on. The paper printed was called "The New Century for Women."



NEW CENTURY CLUB-HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

At the meeting in Mrs. Leslie's house, when the question of the name came up, one of the women present said that she could think of no name that would so fully and so intelligently represent the spirit that ought to distinguish the club as that of the Woman's Exposition newspaper.

Upon her motion the name was adopted, and thus the "New Century Club" started with a good name and active membership. Its permanent government was provided for by the election of an Executive Board of eighteen women, four of whom served uninterrupted terms from 1877 till 1892. One of these long-term officers was Mrs. Eliza Sproat Turner, the "mother" of the club, and another, Mrs. Charlotte L. Peirce, always the treasurer. Mrs. Turner became afterwards the "mother" of the New Century Guild of Working Women, the most notable outgrowth of the New Century Club.

The foundation principle, upon which the New Century Club was based, is stated in the constitution: "To create an organized centre of thought and action among women, for the protection of their interests and the promotion of science, literature, and art, and to furnish a quiet and safe place in Philadelphia for the comfort and convenience of its members."

The first fee was fixed at five dollars, not enough to justify luxurious quarters, although the membership had grown to upwards of one hundred within the first year. Two modest rooms were, however, found in a retired street (Girard), and the club set itself to starting a home. The first carpet was hired, and an objectionable grease-spot on the wall was covered by the president's portrait.

One of the members supplied a sofa, and the little tables were covered with woolen tapestry samples, bordered with woolen fringes to match. The uncushioned chairs were a little stiff, but the members made no objection, and every added bit of brightness was the subject of all-round congratulation.

In the secretary's report at the close of the year Mrs. Turner said: "If we are not furnished with the luxuries that men possess in their club-houses we find an attractiveness often absent in more expensive establishments." And adds in regard to plans for the future: "These projects require for their fulfillment, time, which we have; patience and energy, which we think we have; and money, which we mean to have."

The real work began at once. Standing committees were formed, upon education, art, and literature, which were represented in turn at the monthly meetings. Study classes were also formed in French, German, and Greek literature.

In the second year of the club the cooking-school came into existence, and continued under its auspices until Mrs. Rorer, a graduate of the school,

took it under her control, and made it the beginning of a career in that special field.

An imperative rule of the New Century Club has been from the first that no public reports should ever be made of its work or its meetings. This rule has been relaxed of late years. But in the beginning, in so conservative a city as Philadelphia, it was necessary to woman's club life and growth.

This fact, however, made its internal atmosphere all the more stimulating. Its enterprises took the practical philanthropic form, many experiments were made, and in turn "vacation schools," "country week," and "evening classes



COMMITTEE ROOM OF THE NEW CENTURY CLUB-HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

for working girls," were fostered or dropped, as circumstances or individual interest in them seemed to dictate.

The classes for working girls laid the foundation of the "Working Woman's Guild." They were from the first the special care of Mrs. E. S. Turner, the first secretary of the New Century Club. To their development she devoted untiring energy, and has remained the inspiring leader throughout the years of its existence as an independent organization.

But while the New Century Club was touching the springs of practical philanthropy, the intellectual energy of its membership was employed in various directions.

A Browning class grew with the years into a Browning Society of several hundred members, and took upon itself an independent life.

Perhaps the most distinguished member of the literary group in the New



MISS AGNES REPPLIER,
New Century Club, Philadelphia, Pa.

Century Club is Miss Agnes Repplier, whose published work has given her the position of leading woman essayist in this country, and who has been generous in her contributions to the literary work of the biennials, and also to local clubs.

The government of the New Century Club is vested, as in the beginning, in an Executive Board of eighteen members. The officers are elected from this board by the club. The members are elected by the board, the applications signed by three persons who must have been members for at least one year.

The New Century Club is not strictly a woman's club. Men are admitted as associate members, but cannot hold office or vote.

The stated meetings are held once a month, when a lecture or literary entertainment is provided. Ten non-members may be admitted to any of these meetings by invitation of the president. But no resident of Philadelphia can be invited more than once in the year.

Special programmes are provided for the third Wednesday in the month, admission to which may be by purchase ticket. There is, however, no rigid rule in regard to these meetings. The effort is to make the programmes interesting, and diversified by talks, lectures, or discussion.

A large and vigorous whist class is a feature of the club life, and a tea once a month, which sometimes ends in a dance for the young people, its most social feature.

The annual meeting is held in April, but the newly-elected officers are not installed until May, when flowers are used in profusion, and the air of a spring festival is given to the occasion.

The building of the club-house was an evolution. In 1889 the club quarters had been transferred from Girard to Chestnut Street, where it had large and handsome rooms. But the Philadelphia desire for a "home" was strong, and when the then president of the Milwaukee Woman's Club, Mrs. W. G. Fitch, came and told how that organization had built its "Athenæum," the heart of the New Century Club was fired. A building committee was at once appointed. Out of this committee a stock company was started with

Mrs. Henry C. Townsend as president, and the charter obtained with a capital of fifty thousand dollars divided into shares of fifty dollars each. Enthusiasm was at once created by the purchase by one member of one hundred shares, and the immediate payment of her check for five thousand dollars.

In building the house there were certain objects to be attained. In the first place the club was to be accommodated, and in the second, a larger revenue than the club could afford without raising the annual tax was necessary for the support of the house and the paying of dividends to the stockholders. To accomplish this latter object the "Drawing-room" was designed, with a view to renting it at times when not needed by the club. There was in Philadelphia society a pressing need for a small hall which could be had for private theatricals, balls, parlor concerts, and receptions, and with which there would be assurance that it would be properly managed and arranged. The success of the "New Century Drawing-room" in filling this demand was proved by the immediate demand for it, so that applications had to be refused. An idea of the delicate care with which it



MRS. HENRY C. TOWNSEND,
Mother of New Century Club-House,
Philadelphia, Pa.



PARLOR OF THE NEW CENTURY CLUB-HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

guards its premises is shown in the refusal of the company to rent it to any one who will serve any kind of liquor at an entertainment. The members are by no means all total abstainers, but they will run no risk from danger they could not control.

The house was completed and opened in January, 1892. The work, as far as possible, was done by women. The design was Mrs. Henry C. Townsend's, the architect was Mrs. Minerva Parker Nichols. The details were entirely under the supervision of club committees appointed for the various purposes.

The material of the building was Pompeiian brick and terra-cotta, with



CORNER IN READING-ROOM OF NEW CENTURY CLUB-HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

very little ornamentation. It is entered by a vestibule opening into a large hall and wide staircase leading to the upper parts of the house. The parlor is in the rear of the first floor, occupying the whole width. Opening upon the hall, also, are the reading and committee rooms and superintendent's office. The "drawing-room" or auditorium is directly over the parlor, and has the height of two stories. It is approached by a massive oaken staircase, ascending from the entrance hall, and is arranged so that strangers need not intrude upon the club premises in going to it.

Its seating capacity is five hundred, and in connection with it is a supper-room, and opposite this a smaller "tea" room.

On the third floor are ladies' dressing-rooms fitted with folding beds.

The kitchens are on the fourth floor, and from them a dumb-waiter runs to each one of the floors below.

The whole effect of the interior is striking, yet delicate, homelike, and very harmonious.

The drawing-room is beautiful. The stage occupies nearly the whole width of the western end, and for club meetings is set as a parlor in white and gold, with carpet and hangings in delicate grays, blues, and pinks. Over the stage is the musicians' gallery, with Moorish fret-work ornamentation. At the opposite end is a gallery for spectators. On the south side of the wall is a large bay window, set in a deep alcove, with graceful arches. Upon the northern wall opposite is painted in delicate colors a procession of youths and maidens, symbolizing Art, Science, and Labor, while Charity fills the space



STAGE OF THE DRAWING-ROOM OF THE NEW CENTURY CLUB-HOUSE, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

in the alcove between the windows. These figures, painted by Miss Gabrielle Clements, are in the most exquisite colors, and have furnished the key-tone of color for the whole house.

The cost of building, furnishing, and ground, was about \$80,000. The New Century Club rents from its stock company certain parts of the building for its exclusive use. But it also has the first right to the "drawing-room," which is never rented when the club has need of it.

When the house was built the membership was four hundred. It is now seven hundred. Among the presidents of the New Century have been Mrs. Charles G. Ames, Mrs. Mary E. Mumford, Mrs. Anna W. Longstreth, Mrs. May E. Hall, and other distinguished women. Mrs. Mumford was the able and much-beloved vice-president of the General Federation from 1894 to 1896, and a director from 1890 to 1894.

Mrs. Longstreth is the chairman of the Programme Committee of the General Federation for the biennial of 1898.

Mrs. Mumford retired from the vice-presidency in order to be able to devote herself more exclusively to the work of the Civic Club in Philadelphia, with which she has been associated from the start.

The New Century Club is undoubtedly one of the strongest of the social and intellectual forces in the city of its birth, and has been the nursery of some of its noblest activities. The Round Robin Club, of which Miss Louise Stockton is the leader, grew out of the Browning class, now the Browning



MRS. MARY E. MUMFORD

Society of the New Century, and it is hard to tell where its influences can be said to end.

The Browning Society, of Philadelphia, is justly famous for three things. First, it is the largest literary society in the world, its membership numbering nearly a thousand; second, it is broadly democratic in principle and in workings, with no manifestations of the "clique" tendency, either intellectual or social; third, it has always had a woman for its president.

The society was born a Browning study-class of the New Century Club, but when it reached its majority, so to speak, it declared its independence of parental control and became a distinct society under its present title. At the same time it emancipated itself from restrictions as to the consideration of one poet alone, and took as its aim the comparative study of English poetry.

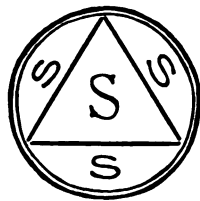
The programmes are interesting and skilfully arranged, and schedules are prepared by the Programme Committee to cover the work of each year, setting forth the selections to be read, the papers to be written, and the sub-

jects to be discussed, together with the names of those members who are to take part in the performance of these exercises.

Among the subjects which have been discussed are: "Browning, Tennyson, and Arnold in their Divergencies from and Indebtedness to the Poetry of the Past," "The Comparative Merits of Browning, Tennyson, and Arnold," "The Influence of Keats," "The Cause of the Great Influence of Thomson and Cowper Fifty Years Ago, and of its Present Decline," "The Breaking Away from the Metric Convention," "Dryden, Pope, Waller," "Shakespeare, King John."

A feature was an evening with home authors, with a paper on "The Present Status of Poetry in America."

The meetings are bi-monthly, the second being a "study meeting," and, as its name indicates, given over to the contemplation and discussion of the writers and subjects selected by the committee. The aim of the committee in preparing the programme is to bring as many different members as possible into active working participation in exercises, and a large part of the really unprecedented success of the society is owing to the fact that expression of opinion is not confined to a literary hierarchy, but is most earnestly solicited and most heartily welcomed from every member.



The Schuylkill Shakespeare Student Society was founded in 1875 by two young women, Sarah J. Elliott and Sarah S. Hill, who have been made life members in recognition of this fact.

The society, however, owes much to the efforts of Miss Emma Pott, who was connected with it from the first and devoted to its interests. The work has somewhat broadened with the years, but it has always maintained its character as a Shakespearean study club, its wider scope being a natural outgrowth of its central idea "*Still I am learning.*" rather than any new departure.

The society was limited to twenty-five members, exclusive of life or honorary members.

Assigned work is required to be in writing, and each member must be an active participant.

Fines are imposed for tardiness, absence, and negligence. For tardiness, five cents; absence unexcused, five cents; no quotation, ten cents; tardiness with no quotation, fifteen cents; and work unprepared or not sent in, twenty-five cents.

The methods of study will be seen by taking their treatment of "The Merchant of Venice"; history and plot of the play, Act I., reading and discussion; the Jew of the sixteenth century, Act II., reading and discussion; Grand Canal of Venice, Act III., reading and discussion; House of

Aragon, reading and discussion; critique of chief characters, Act V., reading and discussion. Give all fine passages, all classical, mythological, and Scriptural allusions, all figures of speech, all words and customs now obsolete, all parallel passages in other plays, all references to works of other authors, all historical and geographical illusions, Oriental marriage customs, social customs and characteristics of this period, description of pageants, masks, and mask writers of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries.

The divisions cover several months of work, and the study of this play for the first months of the season was followed by "Early American History" and "Five Great Cathedrals of England."

The work of the later years has consisted of the close study, during each club year, of one Shakespearean play, with another subject or group of subjects taken from American history or English or American literature. One of these groups consisted of studies of famous persons and places connected with them. A short time is also given at each meeting to a little report or discussion on the topics of the time.

The year closes with an informal tea and reception. When an evening is given to a reading from Shakespeare, or a lecture upon a literary subject by a well-known man or woman, under the auspices of the Schuylkill Shakespeare Student Society, all the world goes.

Miss Pott has remained the president, and the Entertainment Committee is the only standing committee in addition to the Executive.

The Saturday Club, of Wayne, was founded in 1886 by Mrs. W. H.



MRS. W. H. SAYEN,
Founder Saturday Club, Wayne, Pa.



MISS A. H. MARKLEV,
Charter Member Saturday Club, Wayne, Pa.

Sayen, who called the first group of women together to consider the question of whether a woman's club was desirable, and the kind of club it should be.

"Dare to be wise." An organization was speedily effected and the membership divided into six sections, each having a chairman: literature, science, art, household, philanthropy, and music. In addition to these sections there are three standing committees: organization, business, and club papers.

The club meets on alternate Saturday afternoons, and is doing very thorough work.

It has a membership of seventy-four women, and is contemplating the building of a club-house.

Its programmes are prepared by the chairmen of the sections, and include original papers, "talks," lectures from outside sources, and very fine music.

The president is Mrs. C. B. Stilwell. An early and valued member is Miss A. H. Markley. The club motto is "Dare to be wise"; the colors, green and white; and the flower, laurel.

The Bradford Woman's Club.—"If it were necessary to name a club that seems ideal in the sincerity of its aims and the unanimity with which it lives up to them, those who know it would think at once of the Woman's Literary Club of Bradford, Pennsylvania." This was said some years since, but it is just as true now.

The work of the Bradford Club is principally literary and historical study, but it has "classes," which vary from year to year, in accordance with one of its quotations: "Many things which cannot be overcome when they are together, yield themselves up when taken little by little." It has also standing committees upon "Entertainment" and "Benevolence," but the work of these is not outlined or recorded in the year-book. The Woman's Literary Club was organized in 1888, and is therefore only nine years old in this year of 1897. But it owns its club home, and enjoys it, not only because its modest refinement carries with it no burden, but because within its walls every member enjoys equal opportunities.

In 1894-95, the studies were "In the Orient;" they always include "topics of the times." The work is very thorough, yet very suggestive. The subjects make one wish to have been there, and the bright quotations show how in all ages history repeats itself; as, for example, preceding the study of



HOME OF THE LITERARY CLUB, BRADFORD, PA.

Persia, "Behold, there shall stand up yet three kings of Persia, and the fourth shall be far richer than they all; and by his strength, through his riches, he shall stir up all against the realm of Grecia."

"Studies of Zoroaster, and the Fire-worshippers;" "Visits to the Persians in their Homes;" "Days with the Wisdom of Omar Khayyám," through the "Rubaiyat," and through the later years, the same delightful intercourse with the best that has lived, and left the record. No wonder that when the Ides of March bring the annual review of all that has been enjoyed, the year-book is closed with a sigh, and the legend:

"The year has gone, and with it many a glorious throng of happy dreams."

It must not be supposed, however, that the time is spent in "dreams." Never was a brighter, more helpful, more truly practical club of women. They are strong in parliamentary ways; they are not above excitement at an election, for

"Now sits expectation in the air;"

and when it is over, the club tea-room is made bright; "Sally puts the kettle on," and "all take tea."

They draw the veil over "Benevolence," for that is incidental; it exists simply because women cannot help it. But the creation and maintenance of such a centre of good things is surely a deed that shines as brightly as any other in this gray old world.

A great event in the life of the Bradford Club was the first annual meeting of the Pennsylvania State Federation, held at its invitation on October 21 and 22, 1896, at its club-house, 1 Chautauqua Place. The occasion was a most successful one in every respect. Mrs. M. Preston Straight, president of the Literary Club of Bradford, made a delightful address of welcome, and the atmosphere of cordial hospitality, refinement, and club fellowship was perhaps more strongly felt than is possible in a convention of greater size or magnitude.

The officers of the Bradford Club for 1896-97 were: President, Mrs. M. Preston Straight; vice-president, Mrs. Phebe Lewis Newell; recording secretary, Mrs. Emma W. Coleman; Federation secretary, Miss Caroline McBurney; treasurer, Mrs. Mary D. Wagner.

The Newcastle Reading Circle was formed in 1888, by six ladies, who met at the invitation of Mrs. A. Lowe, for the purpose of organizing a society for literary study and mutual improvement.

Mrs. Lowe was chosen president, and continued to serve till she moved away from the city three years later. Mrs. J. W. Phillips was elected to succeed her, and has continued to fill the office ever since.

The Circle increased in interest and numbers until the beginning of the second year, when the limit was placed at forty, and the waiting list formed another club.

The Reading Circle has continued in active operation with few changes from its first year's roll-call. Two other clubs have been formed from the overflow of the Reading Circle, which follow the same programme, but are not federated.

The work in literature, beginning with American authors, has been followed by the more comprehensive study of the history and literature of nations; 1897 was given to a "Tour through France, Holland, Germany, and Italy."

The officers, besides the president, are: Vice-president, Mrs. N. Martin; secretary, Miss Mary Jackson; treasurer, Miss Viola Woods, and three critics.

The meetings have been held at the homes of the members, but the club is now anticipating a union with four other women's clubs of the city, and the occupation of a club-house of their own.

The New Century Guild of Working Women is the outgrowth, organized in 1889, of evening classes for working girls, formed by the New Century Club in 1881, and of which Mrs. E. S. Turner was chairman. These classes charged only a nominal fee, members of the club giving their services as teachers.

The classes under Mrs. Turner's management had an extraordinary development.

At the end of the first year there were two hundred and twenty pupils with twenty-nine teachers.

Later, the "classes" resolved themselves into an independent organization: a Working Women's Guild, established in a house of its own, and conducting its own affairs, with Mrs. Turner as president.

Trades classes were instituted in the new home, and made considerable progress. But in 1893 they were transferred to the Drexel Institute. This reduced the number of young women in daily attendance, but enlarged the accommodations for the "circles," which constituted the majority membership.

The circle of stenographers, for example, number seventy, many of whom meet once a week for practice and mutual criticism, not only in the technical part of their profession, but in composition. They keep a graded record of the capacity of their members, and, in recommending one of their number for a position, give a conscientious statement, to the best of their judgment, of her ability.

The dressmakers have a like association, meeting at stated times to compare notes as to methods, and to exchange ideas generally.

In 1894 a report made by Mrs. Turner gives the number of voting members in the guild as 664; whole number of young women habitually using the house, 1,434; average use of house by members, 37; number of classes in operation during the year, 16; number of lectures and talks by outsiders, 16; number of entertainments given by the guild, 11.

One of the evening classes of the guild for several years was called the "thinking" class. Under the leadership of the Rev. Charles G. Ames, it took up the study of Spencer, sentence by sentence, paragraph by paragraph,



A GLIMPSE OF THE GUILD LIBRARY, PHILADELPHIA, PA.

and the acute questions and suggestive remarks of those working girls would have done credit to a student class in philosophy of any university.

Another large class was the history class, under the leadership of Mrs. Lillian G. Keyes, a member of the New Century Club. This class numbered over a hundred, and the history covered the art, literature, and social life of the period studied.

In work of this kind much depends upon the personality of the leader and ability to inspire enthusiasm. A very successful beginning is often arrested because the one person drops out who could have carried on the work.

The fine gymnasium of the guild owes its equipment to George W. Childs, and is a most valuable feature of the guild house.

The guild is absolutely unsectarian, and therefore receives no help from any church or church society, but by the steady help of a few friends, and

the one dollar and twenty cents a year from membership fees, it is able to accommodate in societies and classes about 1,400 self-supporting young women in the course of a year, and to give them the practical advantages of a working women's university. The Guild of Working Women is now, and has been for many years, an independent organization, occupying its own house, which contains an excellent library, and an assembly-room large enough for lectures, concerts, and dances. It has a printing-office, in which it does job work, and prints the *Working Woman's Journal*.

The guild's house is open to members every day except Sunday. The fee for membership is one dollar and twenty cents per year, which includes subscription to the guild paper.

The library contains nearly two thousand volumes, and the reading-table is supplied with twelve monthly magazines and twenty-three less important periodicals.

There is a dining-room to which members can bring their lunch and supplement it with tea, coffee, or soup; and other quiet rooms in which they can take a few minutes of rest before returning to the hurry and rush of business.

Mrs. Turner, who has always been the inspiration of the guild, devotes to it all the energies of her life, and has been its good genius as well as its mother.

The Wednesday Club, of Franklin, for its age and the ability of its members, is one of the most modest and conservative associations in this section of the State.

It was organized in 1889, and a large majority of its membership of thirty-five are direct descendants of the original families who settled the town more than one hundred years ago. In 1891 it joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and has been represented by delegates at the various conventions.

In 1896 it joined the State federation, and the first annual convention, held in Bradford, was attended by ten members. Among the club women are some widely travelled, highly educated, brilliant speakers and writers, whose work appears in some of the leading papers and magazines. Many of them belong to other associations, including the Daughters of the American Revolution and Colonial Dames, one member belonging to the American Society of "Immortals."

As a club, it has never taken an active part in public affairs, but the benefit and stimulus derived by the members through the wide diversity of subjects studied keeps them in touch with the progressive ideas of the present decade.

The Wednesday Club confines itself exclusively within its own field,

which is purely literary. The first year of the club was spent in studying American history with the idea of first becoming familiar with the history of our own country. It travelled in England the second year. The third and fourth year it studied France chronologically, beginning with Gaul before the occupation of the Romans, and coming down to the present time.

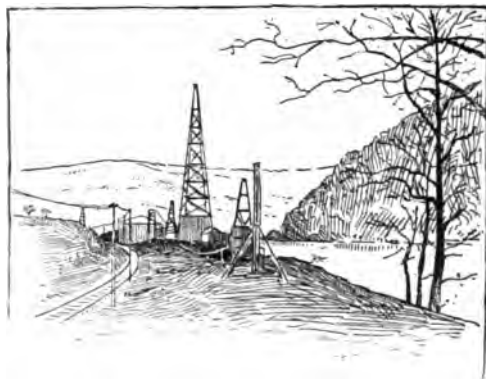
The fifth and sixth years Roman and Italian history was studied; 1895-96 were spent in Germany; 1897-98 are devoted to English history and literature, with current topics. The work is done by original papers, talks, and discussion growing out of the questions raised by the study work or in relation to its personages.

One of these was, The value of historical association; others, America's relations with foreign powers; Has art done more than literature for the education of the masses? Property rights of women,—and others equally interesting, and stimulating to free discussion.

The programme committee, which consists of seven members, is appointed each January, and spends the next five months preparing the programme for the following year. From 1889 to 1895 the programmes were historical, but since that time a miscellaneous section has been added, which consists of debates, conversations, days with poets, musicians, and original stories.

One of the most happy features connected with the social life of the club is an annual banquet held June 6th, the Anniversary Day, at which time the programmes for the following year are distributed, and toasts, music, and speeches are indulged in by the members and visitors.

The officers are: President, Mrs. Alexander; vice-president, Mrs. Glenn; secretary, Miss M. Brown; treasurer, Miss Lyda Mitchell. The Programme Committee consists of seven ladies, Mrs. L. D. Fassett, Mrs. S. C. Lewis, Mrs. R. G. Lamberton, Mrs. R. Glenn, Miss Jane Howell, Miss M. Brown, and Mrs. M. Prentice; historians, Mrs. C. Hayes and Miss M. Anderson.



Belles-Lettres Club.—In 1890 Mrs. C. A. Babcock, the wife of the superintendent of schools in Oil City, received a copy of the *Woman's Cycle*. Its records of clubs inspired a desire on the part of those who saw it to found a woman's club, and thus was formed the Belles-Lettres Club. The literary work of the club has been of a high order, and the aim and desire to help others resulted in the establishment of a public library. The library now

has over two thousand volumes, comprising the best in history, biography, and poetry. "Many works of reference," says the historian, "too expensive for private owners, are the best possession of the library, and these are constantly used by our school children. Among the subscribers are over fifty boys. They love the library, and the books they read are a means of grace to them, supplying safe and wholesome employment for the winter evenings. Every resident of the city can become a subscriber upon payment of one dollar. Each club member also pays one dollar a year. The only privilege not shared by the others is the privilege of working to raise money and care for the books."

"The Belles-Lettres club was the first to conduct (with financial success) a course of lectures in Oil City, and was one of the first in the State to join the General Federation. The motto of the General Federation, 'Unity in Diversity,' is the prevalent spirit of the club. Mrs. C. A. Babcock, widely known for her literary and executive abilities, has been the president from the first, loved by all."

In 1892 the club was incorporated for "the study of literature, and the establishing and maintaining of a public library."

The incorporators were, Emma Whitcomb Babcock, Emma Simpson Hulings, Elizabeth Cowell, Rebecca M. Parker, Laura M. Wise, Jean M. Hyde, Sarah Delphine Crozier, Rebecca Clark, Jennie Barr, Lavinia K. Hartwell, Elizabeth L. Brundred, Clara L. Hartwell.

The meetings are weekly, and the literary work excellent. Mrs. Babcock is a woman of great literary versatility and originality. Her contributions to the best periodical literature have been frequent, and marked by an unusual order of excellence. The literary courses she has outlined upon special subjects have been in frequent demand by other clubs. The following is an example of a study of three novelists.

Thackeray.—The study of his satire. The character of Becky Sharp. Washington, as depicted in "The Virginians." Beatrix Esmond, as delineated in "Henry Esmond." Beatrix Esmond, as delineated in "The Virginians." Why are Thackeray's women called weak? Are they? Compare little Rawdon Crawley with Paul Dombey. Some of Thackeray's men.

George Eliot.—Sketch of life. Housewifery in George Eliot's novels.



MRS. C. A. BABCOCK,
President of Belles-Lettres, Oil City, Pa.

Religion. Children. Compare Dinah Morris with Catherine Elsmere. Compare Gwendolin with Donatello in "The Marble Faun." What idea of George Eliot as a woman does one get from her letters compiled by her husband? Give an illustration of a stroke of genius by some other author which equals that in "Adam Bede," when Arthur takes the little pink silk handkerchief from the waste-paper basket.

Walter Scott.—Scott's childhood. Scott's manhood. Border minstrelsy. Contrast Rebecca and Jeanie Deans. Sketch the character of Meg Merrilies, with brief mention of the famous women who have acted the part. Give striking quotations from Scott. Is the Queen Elizabeth of "Kenilworth," the Queen Elizabeth of history? Emerson's estimate of Scott. Carlyle's estimate of Scott. Conversation by the club. Each one to bring some item of interest upon the subject.

The interests of the club have been by no means confined to its literary work. A special effort was directed towards the formation of a public library, and many of the most interesting discussions have been upon household subjects and village-improvement topics.

Mrs. Babcock for many years conducted a household department in the *Evening Post* of New York, and, later, a department of the same kind on original club lines in the *New Cycle*. A paper given by Mrs. Babcock upon original work in clubs at the biennial of the General Federation in Philadelphia will perhaps be remembered, and will indicate the stimulating influence such a woman would exercise upon the thought of a club.

The meetings of Belles-Lettres are every Friday. The membership has now grown to one hundred, with ten associates.

The work is in seven departments: literature, education, social economics, finance, music, current topics, and philanthropy.

Woman's Literary Club, of Meadville, was organized in 1890 for the pursuit of study as a means of intellectual improvement. Its founder was Frances Isabel Davis, its membership limited to forty, and its purpose of study on historical and literary lines has been strictly maintained.

The meetings are fortnightly, on Friday afternoons. The office of critic is vested in the president, and its duties performed by her, or by some one whom she appoints. One of the early years was devoted to an exhaustive study of America, through original prepared papers and "conversation."

A question-box in the early days was open at every meeting, and quotations from the authors of the period were given as answers to roll-call. Later, in 1895, the question-box was replaced by half an hour given to "current events," and conversation had become "free discussion."

The study of France by periods, of England and other countries, has

been pursued in the same thorough and conscientious manner that characterized the club's work from the first. But it has broadened its work without in any way departing from the original intention. From all points of view, history, literature, art, social customs, and personages, the studies have been a liberal education to the members.

The Executive Board forms the Programme Committee, and has published year by year a neat calendar, with cover, for the use of members.

The club joined the General Federation in 1891.

Two of its presidents have been Sarah Prendergast Thomas and Mrs. S. E. Sennett.

Its present presiding officer is Mrs. A. E. Smith. The founder, Miss Davis, has served in many capacities—as secretary, vice-president, and upon the Executive Board.

The membership is full, and the overflow or waiting list has formed another club.

Meadville has two other clubs,—**Five o'Clock**, organized June, 1893, and having for its principal object the study of the political questions of the day, and the **Friday Night Club**, a recent organization of young women devoted to the study of literature and current topics. These clubs report a membership of twelve and fifteen, respectively.

Of the young study club, Miss E. Hackston is the president. Mrs. E. A. Hempstead presides over the Five o'Clock. Both these clubs are members of the General Federation, but only one, the Friday Night Club, of the State federation.

The Round Robin Reading Club was an outgrowth of the literature class of the New Century Club, of Philadelphia. It is now an independent enterprise of the former chairman, Miss Louise Stockton, and is carried on largely by correspondence, and recently through the pages of *Scribner's Magazine*. The purpose of the Round Robin is to furnish outlines and programmes to the literary and study clubs. This work was initiated and carried on for Massachusetts by Miss Susan Ticknor, of Boston. Miss Stockton has broadened its scope and taken in a larger area. The "courses" have been found particularly valuable to teachers and leaders of classes. Round Robin has no text-books, but uses standard literature; its members select their own subjects; it endeavors to make them acquainted with whatever illustrates or elucidates their work, and to interest them in the best books, and thus assist in the proper use of public libraries.

The membership fee is fifty cents, the cost of the courses according to the number of persons using them.

Miss Stockton is the sister of Mr. Frank Stockton, the novelist. Under her personal direction, it is needless to add that the Round Robin enjoys

peculiar privileges, while it has received the indorsement of men and women everywhere prominent in the field of letters.

The Wheel of Sewickley.—The group of ladies, fourteen in number, who met and formed a class under the above name in 1891, pursued courses of literary study for some years under the direction of Mrs. C. W. Bassett, at whose residence the Wheel was formed.

Informal discussion followed the reading of the "Canterbury Tales," Scott's "Lady of the Lake," Tennyson's "Princess," "The Idylls of the King," and many another gem of poetry or classic prose.

In the year 1896-97, the members, with invited guests, grew to an attendance of seventy or eighty persons, friends frequently coming from considerable distances in response to invitations to meet celebrities, or to enjoy a social tea after the event of the hour.

At the last meeting in January, 1896, Mrs. Bassett sprung the surprise of a perfected plan for a re-organization of the Wheel into the Woman's Club of Sewickley. The idea was received with enthusiasm. A constitution was adopted, and committees formed upon home, philanthropy, education, and literature.

The limited membership of one hundred was at once filled, and a waiting list formed of thirty, which has since been added to the original list.

Mrs. Bassett was elected the president of the new organization, which was incorporated and became a member of both State and National Federations. The meetings begin in October, with a president's reception at the president's home. Four social meetings during the year, to which guests are invited, provide the element of hospitality, and strengthen good-fellowship. The regular weekly meetings are devoted to earnest work in the different departments.

Titusville Woman's Club.—This club was the outgrowth of a desire of a number of women, rather than through the effort of any one individual. "*Sapere aude.*"

Its organization dates from 1892, and it became allied with the General Federation in 1893. Its object was study for mutual improvement, and it has followed this course with delightful results.

Its outlines of study and year-books show refinement and culture of a high order.

The studies in 1895-96 were in nineteenth-century literature and parliamentary law. These included "English Poets," and "American Essayists," followed by papers upon "American Poets," and "English and American Fiction."

One of the days was given to dramatic representation, the cast of characters in "Twixt Axe and Crown" being taken by members of the club.

Other days were given to "Women in Literature," and to the "Ethics of Women's Clubs."

The progressive development of the membership has been in the line of more original work, freer discussion, more exact methods, and the development of a finer taste.

The general subject for 1897 is "Greece;" but the questions for discussion have been varied, and usually derived from stirring topics of the time.

The success of the club, it is felt, has been largely due to the untiring efforts of Mrs. Annette F. Grumbine, to stimulate the members to individual participation in the work of the club, and spare no pains to render it thorough and many-sided.

The membership consists of sixty regular and twenty associate women. The club year begins in October and ends in April. The decorative flower is the violet, and the club motto "*Sapere aude.*" The club colors are violet and white.

The officers for 1897 were: President, Mrs. C. J. Allen; vice-president, Mrs. A. F. Grumbine; recording secretary, Mrs. F. P. Heywang; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. M. Bevins; treasurer, Mrs. M. F. Hoag.



MRS. A. F. GRUMBINE,
First President Titusville Woman's
Club, Pa.

The New Century Club of Chester.—In this old city on the Delaware, where Penn first landed, the woman's club was founded in November, 1893, under the name of the New Century Club, of Chester; its avowed object, "to form an organized centre for the intellectual, social, and moral development of its members, and to strengthen their individual efforts for humanity."



At its second meeting eighty-seven members were enrolled, and Mrs. Frederic Preston, who had organized it, became its first president. The following year Mrs. Preston was reelected, and was succeeded, in 1895, by Mrs. J. Edwards Woodbridge, the present president, who was reelected in May, 1896.

The strides of this young club were rapid. Its membership soon reached the appointed limit of two hundred, with a waiting list, and recently that limit was extended to two hundred and twenty-five, the seating capacity of the hall.

*"Always tending toward
a noble end."*

Every week is not too often for their gatherings. They assemble on Tuesday afternoons in a beautiful hall over the Free Library, which was built by Miss Laura Hard, who is herself a club member, and here in this hall and its ante-rooms, for class work and entertainments, the members feel that they are exclusively in woman's domain, furthering another woman's enterprise and developing the club idea in a purely womanly manner.

Besides its regular Tuesday meetings, the club has class work and standing committees, whose chairmen are appointed by the president annually.

The science section had for its chairman last year Mrs. J. W. Mercur, of



NEW CENTURY CLUB OF CHESTER, PA.

MRS. FRED. PRESTON, Founder, First President

MRS. J. E. WOODBRIDGE, President

MRS. ORLANDO HARVEY, Treasurer

Wallingford, and botany was taught in that department by Dr. Robert S. Maison. Folding tables were built along the windows for the use of this class. In the winter this class studies from the living specimens, as well as from books and charts, and when the spring opens makes excursions by trolley and coach, inviting all club members who wish to join them. This science branch was added to the club in 1894, under the leadership of Mrs. Woodbridge. At that time an enthusiastic class took up the study of geology, with Mr. H. C. Borden, of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, as its teacher. Three unique field excursions were taken by rail and coach through Delaware, Philadelphia, and Montgomery counties.

The chairman (1897) is Mrs. J. N. Trainer.

Of the literature section Mrs. Philip H. Mowry was the original leader. Its last year's chairman was Mrs. S. B. Luckie, and the class followed the lines marked out by Mr. Rolfe's course in university extension, reading and dis-

cussing by turns Shakespeare, Lamb, Dickens, Carlyle, Eliot, Thackeray, and Scott, and writing papers upon them.

Mrs. F. Smith and Mrs. E. West have succeeded Mrs. Luckie. These ladies conduct the class without calling to their assistance either lecturers or teachers. Under the head of "Incidental Study Classes," of which Miss Elizabeth Rice is chairman, the club carries on a course of lessons in mental training, and later there will be another course by Prof. Henry Ludlam in voice culture, also a special course in parliamentary ruling.

The language class, under Madame Ulman's instruction, studied Char-denal's Grammar and translated "L'Abbé Constantin."

The philanthropic division has established a free kindergarten, which is in a most flourishing condition, the teacher being a member of the club.

One of the "home days" in 1896 was in charge of Miss Eliza Leiper. All members possessed of artistic gifts were asked to exhibit, and the result was a beautiful collection of oil and water-colors, crayons, modelling, photography, china-painting, and needlework. Papers upon art were read at the afternoon session. An art reception was given the night previous.

Another "home day," near Christmas, called "Holly and Mistletoe," was devoted to historical Christmas customs, under the direction of Mrs. Philip H. Mowry.

Musicales sometimes vary the programmes. Two, chiefly of home talent and coming under the head of "home day," were given under the direction of the Misses Bent and Mrs. Thomas Stellwagen, and were entertainments of a high order.

The New Century Club has entertained Mrs. E. Campbell, vice-president of the State federation, and representatives of the Wayne and Darbey clubs.

It has had addresses from Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Mrs. A. L. Smith, president of the Media Club, and an original address upon "Napoleon" by Madame Rhea.

The Science Committee has given a course of seven free lectures, chiefly upon "Physiology," by the young physicians of the county: Dr. D. T. Laine, "Bacteriology"; Dr. Charles Schoff, "Emergency Cases"; Dr. Hannah Price, "Hygiene"; Dr. W. K. Evans, "The Circulation"; Dr. F. F. Long, "Anatomy of the Brain"; Miss A. P. Uric, "The Lungs and Respiration," and Miss Mary S. Holmes, "Geological Excursions from Maine to Florida."

The president, Mrs. Woodbridge, has given two addresses, illustrated by lantern pictures of her own making.

The New Century is a federated club, and the past year sent delegates to both the General and State Federations; it also has adopted club colors, a motto, and a pin. On an enamelled ribbon encircling this pin are these words, "Always tending toward a noble end."

The officers, in addition to the president, are: Vice-presidents, Miss E. Rice, Mrs. Samuel Starr; recording secretary, Mrs. T. Higgins; and corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. H. Johnson, of Upland. The finances have been in charge of Mrs. Orlando Harvey ever since the beginning. Added to these six officers are eight directors. These fourteen members compose the Executive Board.

The Woman's Health Protective Association, of Philadelphia, was founded in 1893 as a committee of the New Century Club, Mrs. E. L. Hall being the chairman. Upon the invitation of the New Century Club, the president of the Health Protective Association of New York, Mrs. M. E. Trautman, made an address, and the women of Philadelphia decided then and there to organize a health protective association on the plan of the one in New York city.

The new organization seemed to meet a want, for it at once obtained a membership of two hundred women. It was fortunate in an efficient and very devoted president, Mrs. J. H. Scribner, whose zeal in the work has never abated.

The first effort of the association was to obtain a thorough knowledge of the municipal departments, especially those of health and public works, and their methods. By the second year the membership had become so large that department committees were organized, a paid secretary employed, and practical work begun.

The committees were upon contagious diseases, water supply, street cleaning, garbage and ashes, sweating system, trolleys, and one upon literature.

Later, the Street Cleaning and Garbage and Ashes committees were consolidated, and also the committees on the Sweating System and Visiting Public Institutions.

The first work of the Water Supply Committee led it to the conclusion that, to make the water pure, some method of filtration must be adopted. All known methods of filtration were considered, and a vigorous campaign for pure water inaugurated.

In May, 1896, the president was appointed by the chairman of the Citizens' Filtration Committee, which is a joint committee consisting of representatives of seventy-five societies, to visit the Louisville water-works, where an experiment on a large scale with several different kinds of alum filters was being tried. As a result of this appointment the president and a committee of ladies spent some interesting hours in visiting the plant. The consequence of the visit was an overwhelming belief in the dangers of alum introduced in the quantities needed to purify the water supply of a large municipality. On returning to Philadelphia, the board was called together and it was decided to again engage an expert on filtration to present a plan of purifying the water supply of Philadelphia. Accordingly, after due consideration, Mr. Allen Hazen,

an engineer of Boston, was engaged to spend the summer in the study of Philadelphia's water supply and present such a plan. In September the association had the pleasure of presenting to the mayor for the use of the city an exhaustive report on the water supply of Philadelphia, which recommended the adoption of simple sand filtration as the best means of purifying discolored germ-laden water. This report was very cordially received by the officials. So much public sentiment was aroused that during the year Councils passed an ordinance authorizing a loan of three millions of dollars for filtration. This loan was unfortunately declared unconstitutional, but public sentiment had been aroused, and it is only a matter of time when a pure water supply for Philadelphia will be obtained.

The Contagious Diseases Committee worked faithfully to secure the hospital for scarlet fever and diphtheria patients so much needed. It procured the names of a number of prominent citizens as incorporators, and obtained the cordial coöperation of the County Medical Society of Philadelphia. A committee of six appointed by that society, and a committee of six from the Contagious Diseases Committee, had weekly meetings together for nearly two years with the utmost harmony and good feeling. To make the hospital known, and to obtain funds for it, a series of three astronomical lectures by Miss Proctor, under the auspices of the committee, and a progressive euchre party successfully conducted by some members of the association, were held during the winter. By the recommendation of one of the members of our committee, Dr. Jones, the association petitioned the Board of Health to introduce the medical inspection of the schools now practiced in New York and Boston. This committee has also studied the contagiousness of tuberculosis and germ disorders. It has been proved that an unsanitary city is an immoral as well as an unhealthy one, and that hygienic conditions are the foundation of moral as well as physical health.

All the committees have taken up their work in the same thorough and systematic way, and a great deal that is useful and valuable has been accomplished. Public officials, at first doubtful and reluctant, now welcome the coöperative influence of the Woman's Health Protective Association, while the membership has grown to upward of four hundred.

At the first convention of the Woman's Health Protective Association of New York city, May 14 and 15, 1896, a motion was made by Mrs. Williams, of New York, seconded by Mrs. Olive Pond-Amies, of Philadelphia, that a committee of five be appointed to consider the question of forming a national health protective association. This committee consisted of Mrs. M. E. Trautman, chairman; Mrs. Fender, New York; Mrs. Scrimgeour, Brooklyn; Mrs. Oakley, Pittsburg, Pa.; Mrs. A. T. Scribner, Philadelphia, and Mrs. G. Rosenfeld, New York.

The question was discussed at two subsequent meetings, and after very careful and prolonged consideration received an adverse vote from the majority of the committee. The majority report stated: "National organization would greatly increase our labors. The benefits derived from experience in organizations have enabled women to have opinions of their own and yet work in harmony with others for the bettering of civic or community life, and we feel, in protecting our homes and the public health, we are doing a great work, but cannot find more time than is now demanded for the present efforts. Conventions aid the entire country, as they show results achieved, but more organization would retard instead of aid the work."

MARY E. TRAUTMAN, New York,
Chairman.

CECILIA FENDLER, New York.

ELLEN A. SCRIMGEOUR, Brooklyn.

A minority report made by Mrs. Scribner was, after discussion, and on motion of Mrs. Osgood, of Maine, substituted by vote for the majority report. On motion of Mrs. Seward, of East Orange, N. J., seconded by Mrs. Amies, of Philadelphia, the Woman's Health Protective Association of the United States was formed, with Mrs. Olive Pond-Amies as president. Its national convention was held in Philadelphia May 3, 1897, with delegates from forty clubs and societies, the majority representing health protective or village improvement associations. Mrs. Scribner was made permanent chairman.

The election resulted in a vote for Mrs. E. H. Osgood, of Maine, as president; vice-president, Mrs. K. B. Gallison; secretary, Mrs. Olive Pond-Amies; treasurer, Mrs. W. G. Rose, of Cleveland; honorary president, the Countess of Aberdeen.

Mrs. Scribner is still the energetic president of the Philadelphia association, which is now working vigorously, through a committee, with the public schools. During the year 1897 the committee itself has visited one hundred and sixty-three schools. In a conference held during the winter with the Councils Committee on Schools, it was suggested by that committee that our association should engage an expert who could make a definite report on the various unsanitary schoolhouses, and Prof. S. H. Woodbridge, of the Institute of Technology, of Boston, was finally engaged to do the work. Fifteen hundred copies of this report, containing a description of and remedies for thirty-six schoolhouses, were printed, and a formal presentation was made of it to the mayor for the use of the Board of Education and the Board of Health.

Among other committees formed this winter (1897) at the request of a

representative of the Culture Extension League, was one on children's playgrounds, in which movement the association is heartily interested. The only work this committee has attempted has been the projecting of a playground in the mill districts of Kensington, where it is proposed to secure a plot of ground, with sheds and pavilions, a shower bath large enough to hold several children, sand-piles, see-saws, swings, balls, bean-bags, and other strong toys, with a kindergartner and janitor in charge of the grounds, and a committee of the association to supervise the arrangements. It is proposed to charge a penny a day admission, because of the self-respect this engenders among those whom the grounds are designed to benefit. Another feature will be the serving of penny lunches, which the College Settlement Coffee House will send up every day.

The Literature Committee has collected thousands of press clippings relating to the work from newspapers published in all parts of the country, and has arranged them topically for the use of the members.

A branch association has been formed in the lower part of Philadelphia, called the Health Protective League. It is expected that branches will be formed in every ward in the city.

The New Century Club, of West Chester, originated with Mrs. James Monaghan, who, in February, 1894, invited three ladies, Miss E. Black, Miss H. A. Marshall, and Mrs. J. T. Rothrock, to meet at her house and consider the advisability of forming a club. The result was a second meeting to which some fifty women were invited, and a temporary organization effected with Mrs. Richard Darlington in the chair, Miss H. A. Marshall acting as secretary. A paper was read from Mrs. Anna Longstreth, then president of the New Century Club, of Philadelphia, and a committee appointed to form a constitution. At a later meeting in March, a constitution was submitted and adopted.

A board of fifteen directors was elected, and from this board the following officers were chosen: President, Mrs. R. Darlington; vice-presidents, Mrs. J. T. Rothrock and Mrs. J. R. Gilpin; corresponding secretary, Miss E. Black; recording secretary, Miss H. A. Marshall; treasurer, Miss S. Gorgas.

Library Hall was made the place of meeting, and each member was invited to contribute a plate, tea-cup and saucer, glass and spoon, as an entrance fee.

The first important division formed was "current events." The work was subsequently divided into sixteen sections, including current literature, education, science, applied art, music, drama, painting, domestic economy, philanthropy, home and foreign politics.

Each of the sections has its own chairman, and the work, though falling into inexperienced hands, progressed finely, developing unexpected and unlooked-for resources.

A nucleus for a building fund was also established by the juniors of the club.

The first club tea was given by the president at her home the following October.

The first public lecture was delivered by Miss Mary Proctor, who took for her subject "Giant Sun and His Family."

German classes, French classes, and a class in physical culture were formed during the first year.

The first annual report of the president was a fine *résumé* of club life and club work. It said: "Not a little inspiration has come into our year's work through the mingling of grandmothers, mothers, and the daughters of the home; each interested alike to know the latest in science, in sociology, and in the world at large."

The Woman's Club, of Media, had its origin in a Dante Class of twenty-five members, and held its first meeting, February 2, 1894, at the home of Mrs. A. Lewis Smith, its first president. It grew rapidly until its membership reached upwards of one hundred and fifty.

Its literary work is done under the heads of literature, education, current events, art, travel, music, book reviews, and philanthropy.

There are classes in French, German, and English literature. A Committee on Organized Charity expends upwards of two hundred dollars each year, besides making contributions of clothing.

In 1896 the club provided twenty lectures, two entertainments, and one musicale. The social life of the club is very attractive. There are four afternoon entertainments given during the year, in addition to a "president's tea," and the anniversary luncheon, which occurs in January.

The class in current events is very active. In 1896 it produced sixteen papers and furnished material for the free discussions. The president is Mrs. I. L. Miller; vice-president, Mrs. H. L. Smith; recording secretary, Mrs. B. A. Wood; corresponding secretary, Miss R. Chambers; treasurer, Mrs. A. M. Jack.

Women of the Round Table, of Du Bois, was organized for mutual improvement and progress. The constitution provides that "Row, not drift." the club shall be non-sectarian, non-political, and shall not partake of the social element. Its purpose is strictly study, historical and literary, varied by occasional travel trips, generally illustrative, or in connection with the work. The objects are accomplished by the means of original studies and papers, with free discussion of current topics thirty minutes at every meeting. In answer to roll-call the responses are by quotations from the author who is the subject of study, or any author of the period, when the subject is drawn from history.

The club year is of ten months' duration, from the first of September till

the last of June. The annual dues are one dollar, and the limit of membership thirty.

The general officers constitute a council, with power to elect an advisory board of three members; these form the board of admission.

The Round Table was admitted to the General Federation in May, 1894. Its president is Mrs. F. R. Scofield. Its motto is "Row, not drift." Its club colors are lavender, green, and white.

The Plastic Club, of Philadelphia.—There are in America many clubs for the furtherance of art interests—painters' clubs, sculptors' clubs, illustrators' clubs—from which women are excluded.

Philadelphia possesses an art club which excludes men. The Plastic Club, formed in the spring of 1897, has on its list of one hundred and twenty-five members all the women artists of any prominence in the Quaker City. Many of its officers and helpers are artists whose ability is known and acknowledged everywhere. Its first president, Miss Blanche Dillaye, is an etcher of uncommon skill. Miss Dillaye enjoys the unique distinction of having made more dry points than any other woman etcher in this country.

The chairman of the Exhibition Committee, Mrs. Alice Barber Stephens, has become familiar to the reading public through her very able black-and-white illustrations for leading periodicals.

Miss Cecilia Beaux, another club member, is pronounced by common consent the best woman portrait-painter of our time.

Miss Emily Sartain, who for a time after the club's formation was its president, is an art educator known on two continents for her successful methods. For many years the colony of women artists of Philadelphia has been growing and thriving, increasing in strength as the individuals comprising it gained recognition. The Plastic Club is the direct outcome of a desire among these busy workers for unity, for a larger artistic atmosphere, for that pleasant intercourse which is the life of any profession.

The club rents a large room at 10 South Eighteenth Street, in which it gives exhibitions, holds meetings, and listens to lectures. Two club exhibitions are held each year, in which every club member has the right to be represented by at least one work. In addition a series of individual exhibitions are held throughout the winter. Such of the members as have a strongly characteristic manner of technique are asked to show their work in the club-room for a limited period, in order that both the club members and the public may be given an opportunity of viewing their productions.

The committee which, with Mrs. Stephens, has charge of these exhibitions is made up as follows: Miss Emily Sartain, Miss Katharine Cohen, Miss Margaret Lippincott, Miss Elizabeth Burton, Miss Caroline Peart, and Miss Mary D. Maxwell.

PENNSYLVANIA

The social side of the club's mission is attended to by a reception committee, which arranges the "club teas" and the like. A house committee and an admission committee do their share in carrying on the affairs of the organization, which is rapidly assuming importance as a perceptible influence in the art doings of Philadelphia.

The officers are: President, Miss Blanche Dillaye; vice-presidents, Miss Emily Sartain and Mrs. Susan Bradley; treasurer, Miss Mary H. Sinnicksen; secretary, Miss F. B. Sheaffer.

STATE FEDERATION IN PENNSYLVANIA

On Friday, April 26, 1895, Mrs. Sarah C. F. Hallowell and Mrs. Anna W. Longstreth, of Philadelphia; Mrs. Mary B. Burgwin, of Pittsburg; Mrs. Emily K. Baer and Mrs. Annie M. Nicolls, of Reading; and Miss Jessie R. Little, of Pottsville, constituting a committee on State Federation, met in the drawing-room of the Century Club, Philadelphia. Mrs. Hallowell was chosen chairman of this meeting, and Miss Little, secretary. The object of the meeting was to formulate a constitution and by-laws for a Pennsylvania State federation. After discussion of the matter, and various suggestions as to the best ways and means of perfecting an organization, the committee adopted a "Constitution and By-laws of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women." Mrs. Longstreth was appointed chairman of a committee of arrangements on State federation; and the constitution and by-laws, with an extract from the minutes of this meeting, were ordered to be printed and sent, as far as possible, to each and every woman's club in the State, with the request that each organization would send word, on or before September 1, 1895, whether it would join a State federation or not.

This was the first step taken in regard to organizing a State federation in Pennsylvania. Following this, a call was issued for the first meeting of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women; and on October 29, 1895, at two P.M., the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women met at the New Century Club, Philadelphia, and organized by the election of the following officers:

President, Mrs. Horace Brock, Lebanon; vice-presidents, Mrs. R. Halde-
man, Harrisburg; Mrs. E. Campbell, Wayne; Mrs. M. C. Prentice, Franklin;
secretary, Miss J. R. Little, Pottsville; treasurer, Mrs. W. H. House, Pitts-
burg; registrar, Miss E. S. Lowry, Philadelphia; directors, Mrs. Annie H.
M. Nicolls, Reading; Mrs. G. F. Baer, Reading; Mrs. A. F. Grumbine, Titus-
ville; Miss Harding, Pittsburg; Miss C. McBurney, Bradford; Mrs. E. L.
Hall, Philadelphia; Mrs. G. R. Stocker, Philadelphia; Mrs. G. M. Philips,
West Chester.

After hearing reports from a number of the clubs represented, and addresses by women interested in club work, the first meeting of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women adjourned.

The first annual meeting of the Federation was held at Bradford, McKean County, on October 21 and 22, 1895, in response to an invitation from the Woman's Literary Club, of Bradford. As provided in the constitution, elections are held biennially, so that this meeting was principally one of entertainment, as outside of the adoption of certain amendments to the constitution and by-laws, offered at the last meeting, only routine business was transacted. Space will not permit a detailed account of the varied and interesting programme of this meeting, nor is it possible to enumerate all the courtesies extended by the citizens of Bradford, men as well as women, to their guests on this occasion. The members of the federation tried to express their thanks by unanimously resolving "That to the enterprise and wisdom of the women of Bradford we owe the successful inauguration of the federation meetings, and that our warmest thanks are due them for the gracious hospitality shown to us in so many ways. They have given us standards of courtesy and hospitality which cannot be excelled, but which it will be our endeavor to maintain." With this meeting at Bradford all doubts as to the success of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women vanished, and the members of the federation adjourned, feeling that their organization was an established fact.

The second annual meeting of the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women was held at Harrisburg, Dauphin County, on October 27 and 28, 1897, as the guests of the Wednesday and Authors' Clubs of that city. Hon. John B. McPherson, of Harrisburg, delivered the address of welcome, which was responded to by Mrs. Brock, the president of the federation, after which the delegates and guests were given a reception at the Harrisburg Club by their hostesses. All this was preliminary to the real work of the convention, to wit, the reports of the various officers and clubs, and the election of officers. Many excellent papers were read at the meetings, as, for instance, that on "Reciprocity," by Mrs. S. A. Thurlow, Pottsville; "Voice Culture in Clubs," by Miss E. B. Rice, Chester; "Forestry," by Miss Myra Lloyd Dock, Harrisburg; "Woman in the Municipality," by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Philadelphia; "The Home in the School," by Mrs. J. P. Mumford, Philadelphia; "The Meaning of the National Congress of Mothers," by Mrs. H. H. Birney, Philadelphia; "Free Libraries," by Miss Helen Sperry, of Braddock. A composite paper, prepared by several members of the Woman's Literary Club, of Bradford, entitled "The Literary Club as a Factor in Woman's Life," was a new and interesting way of presenting the views of different people on the same subject. The "Informal Conference on Club Problems," led by Miss

Alice Nevin, of Lancaster, and the "Discussion on the Practical Methods of Civic Work," led by Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, of Philadelphia, suggested many points of value to club women. Miss Wistar, of Philadelphia, held the close attention of her audience in her informal talk on the "Philadelphia League of Good Citizenship." Mrs. Pratt, of the Carlisle Indian Training-School, touched on the needs of the Indian as a scholar, his traits and general character; and Miss Garrett gave an interesting talk on "The Duty of the Hour to Deaf Children." The musical selections were all of the highest order, and contributed much to the pleasure and entertainment of the convention.

Part of the business of the convention was the adoption of a resolution declaring that, "in consideration of the importance of the preservation and cultivation of the forests of our State, both as a means of maintaining an adequate supply of water and of securing a proper distribution of rainfall, thereby increasing the State's productiveness and consequent wealth, the State federation, through its clubs and individual members, should use every effort to arouse interest in our forest conditions and resources, with a view to an intelligent understanding of the value of forest preserves, and the best means of protection and cultivation."

The choice of delegates to the meeting of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, to be held in Denver in June, 1898, resulted in the following: Mrs. Horace Brock, president; Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, Philadelphia; Miss Nevin, Lancaster; Miss McKnight, Pittsburg; and Miss Little, Pottsville, as the "walking delegate."

The following officers were elected: President, Mrs. Horace Brock, Lebanon; vice-presidents, Mrs. Richard Haldeman, Harrisburg; Mrs. Ellis L. Campbell, Wayne; Miss Kate McKnight, Pittsburg; treasurer, Mrs. W. H. House, Pittsburg; secretary, Miss Jessie R. Little, Pottsville; directors, Mrs. Edward W. Biddle, Jr., Carlisle; Mrs. William C. Walls, Lewisburg; Mrs. C. C. Huff, Pittsburg; Mrs. Isaac L. Miller, Media; Mrs. G. M. Philips, West Chester; Mrs. G. R. Stocker, Philadelphia; Mrs. A. F. Grumbine, Titusville; Miss Caroline McBurney, Bradford.

At present there are sixty-three clubs federated, with a membership of something over seven thousand five hundred. A bureau of reciprocity—containing essays and papers on various subjects, written by women of the different clubs; constitutions and by-laws of most of the clubs, and their annual reports; a list of lecturers, readers, singers, with their programmes and prices, desirable for club entertainments—has been established, with Mrs. M. B. Greer, of Lebanon, as librarian.

A civic committee, consisting of Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson, of Philadelphia, chairman; Mrs. J. P. Mumford, Mrs. Edward Longstreth, and Mrs.

Lukens, Philadelphia ; Mrs. C. A. Babcock, Oil City ; Miss Anne C. Coleman, Lebanon ; Mrs. C. C. Huff, Homestead ; Mrs. Anna M. Maris, Newtown ; Mrs. William E. Martin, Lewisburg ; Mrs. David Kirk, Pittsburg ; Miss Elizabeth Rice, Chester ; and Miss Petersen, Honesdale, was appointed in the summer of 1897, and is doing active work throughout the State.

While the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women is young as regards the time of its existence, and small in its numbers as compared with some of the other State federations, yet it has reason to feel encouraged with its prospects for the future. It is composed of earnest, bright, intelligent women, who have federated, not solely for their individual advantage, but for the benefit of their immediate community, their State, and the nation at large, by uniting their influence and enterprise to promote measures which all can indorse, whether these be legislative, educational, moral, or social, and to compare methods of study and work. Working on such a broad platform, there can be no question as to the ultimate good to be attained by the State Federation of Pennsylvania Women.

J. R. L.

The Bureau of Reciprocity of the State federation has sent out the following circular letter to the presidents of State federated clubs :

"MY DEAR MADAM PRESIDENT:—

"Will you kindly forward me as soon as possible any papers that have been read at any time by members of your club, that are suitable for our bureau, and continue this service during the year?

"The papers most in demand are those upon general club work ; the manner of conducting its departments of literature, science, art, music, club classes, mothers' departments, household economics, and civics in its various departments of education, libraries, street cleaning, public health. It is desirable, but not essential, that clubs sending papers should have them typewritten on good paper.

"It is also proposed to follow the custom of several State federations and issue December 1st a circular containing the names of our club women who would be willing to visit clubs and conduct parliamentary classes or make addresses. This list will be classified as follows :

"Those willing to go for their expenses to neighboring clubs ; those willing to go for their expenses anywhere ; and professionals, with their terms and topics.

"Please also send me your programme and your constitution and by-laws, unless you have already done so."

From the department of civics the following letter was sent to the local clubs :

" JULY 10, 1897.

" DEAR MADAM,—The State Federation of Pennsylvania Women having through its president, Mrs. Horace Brock, formed a Committee on Civics, of which Mrs. Cornelius Stevenson has been appointed chairman and Mrs. Edward Longstreth, vice-chairman, I am requested, as corresponding secretary, to communicate with you, and to ask if you will kindly let us know whether your club has done any practical or other work in educational, municipal, or sanitary improvement, *i. e.*, civics, as we are anxious to organize such interests throughout the State for purposes of mutual assistance and information.

" If your attention has not yet been drawn to this subject, may we suggest that the advisability of forming a committee for the purpose of practically applying the theory of the club, with a view to public improvement, may receive your earnest consideration.

" In every club such a committee will fill a need. Purely literary clubs, for instance, will find their practical usefulness in the promoting of free libraries and of a free library system that must not only supply but develop and guide the literary needs of our people. Other public interests of an educational nature are closely allied to the purposes for which literary organizations are formed.

" Music or art clubs must become invaluable as a means of creating a demand for higher artistic opportunities, by making an effort to introduce the study of music in the schools, or to decorate them with fine reproductions of the masterpieces, whether casts, solar prints, or photographs; by working toward the establishment of public squares and gardens, where a good municipal band will give wholesome and refining amusement to the people, etc. These are only a few of the many practical civic possibilities of the music or art clubs.

" These committees, working singly for the improvement of their municipality, may, through the Federation of Pennsylvania Women, become a powerful unit when working together for some great State measure. Much valuable, practical work of popularizing was lately done by the Civic Club of Philadelphia with regard to the Forestry Bill, which has now become a beneficent law for the protection of our forests. At the next annual meeting of the Federation of Pennsylvania Women place will be given on the programme to reports of the department of civics.

" Mrs. Stevenson, *Chairman.*

" Mrs. Longstreth, *Vice-chairman.*

" Mrs. W. F. Litch, *Secretary.*"

The constitution of the State federation provides that its "object shall be to unite the influence and enterprise of Pennsylvania women; to promote

measures which all can indorse, whether these be legislative, educational, moral, or social; and to compare methods of study and work. No sectarian or political test is required, and no club or society designed for a special purpose, such as 'Single Tax,' 'Temperance,' 'Woman Suffrage,' 'Anti-Vivisection,' shall bring its discussions or its subjects into meetings of the State federation, except by unanimous consent, at any annual meeting."

The State, for business purposes, is divided into Eastern, Central, and Western districts, each numbering twenty or upwards of twenty counties. Each of these districts has a chairman of "district" correspondence. In the Eastern district twenty-nine clubs are recorded as belonging to the State in 1897. This includes Philadelphia, which contributes twelve clubs; Lebanon, which has three; and fourteen towns of one each.

In the Central district are eleven clubs from six towns, including Harrisburg, which brings four. The Western district has nineteen clubs in eleven towns, including Pittsburg, which contributes five, Bradford three, and Meadville three.

The highest recorded membership is the "six hundred" of the New Century Club, Philadelphia. Second on the roll, the New Century "Guild," five hundred strong; and third, the Twentieth Century Club, of Pittsburg, with its four hundred women.

The whole number of clubs recorded is fifty-seven, with an individual membership of 7,514 women. But this enumeration does not include the clubs or membership added during the past year.

The Bureau of Reciprocity prints in the year-book of the State federation a list of available papers (original) sent to clubs upon application, to be read and returned. The subjects include child study, domestic economy, parliamentary usage, literature, art, science, travel, civics, and others. It also gives a list of club women in the State who are willing to address clubs on special topics for expenses.

The report of the president for 1897 embodied the following suggestions:

"I would urge upon the officers of our clubs the duty of being familiar with the organization and work of the State federation. Many of our club presidents, to say nothing of the members, have never read the federation constitution, know nothing of its methods of work or the names of the chairmen of its standing committees.

"The work of the federation is growing, so that it is necessary to communicate with club members as much as possible through their specified officers.

"The question of associate members is one that calls for careful consideration by some of our clubs where the associate membership, as in the case of our kind entertainers, is four times as large as the regular membership.

"These associate members are often a club's most zealous and generous supporters; we can testify that they are active members; they are simply unable or unwilling to take part in the club programme, and I cannot but feel that it would be a great advantage to a club to admit them to full membership.

"Many of them would be excellent officers or active workers, and it would give a club larger representation in the federation, to which it is really entitled. I beg that all clubs having associate women members will give this matter their careful consideration. A club that excludes from full membership the women who often most need it, and who are often of most value to it, is a very incomplete woman's club, and not in full sympathy with the club spirit of to-day."

Rhode Island

Women's Clubs of Rhode Island.—One of the most significant facts in the social history of the latter half of the nineteenth century is the influence which women have gained through organization.



RHODE ISLAND WOMAN'S
CLUB

Since the day of the council at Macon, which seriously discussed the question as to whether women had souls, the "sphere" of women has been undetermined, and it still remains so unless the definition is accepted, that it is one "with an infinite and indeterminable radius."

Thirty years ago, for women to form a club of their own in any community meant "to array themselves against the prejudices of society."

To-day every city, town, and village has its club, or group of clubs, stimulating women to the study and discussion of every important question of the time. The woman who first felt this impulse most strongly in Rhode Island was Mrs. Elizabeth R. Churchill. She had the conviction, and the courage of her conviction, that the aid of women was demanded to solve the problems that were vexing humanity, and believed they would nobly perform their part if they only knew how. The majority of them were, however, lamentably ignorant of parliamentary forms for conducting meetings, which, while they permit differences of opinion, likewise teach obedience to law. It is not enough to have right beliefs, it is necessary to know how to express them so as to move others in the right direction. Here again the want of training of women was manifest. They not only had not the experience which would make them exact thinkers and accurate in the presentation of facts, but they lacked the self-possession to do so before an audience.

Realizing these limitations of her own sex, Mrs. Churchill believed that a club formed for social and literary purposes would be of great educational value. Her confidence that an association established on such a basis could be formed and would live stimulated others who had the desire, but not the faith, to lead them to take so radical a step as the formation of a woman's club demanded in a conservative city like Providence. During the winter of 1875-76, meetings were held to discuss the practicability of such a step. To



WOMAN'S CLUB OF RHODE ISLAND

SARAH E. DOYLE, Founder, ex-President

FANNIE P. PALMER, ex-President

MRS. B. H. MATTESON, President

one in 1875 Mrs. Croly was invited, and made an address on the "Work of Sorosis." That such organizations had become desirable no one doubted; but the feasibility in Providence was questioned. Mrs. Churchill's faith, however, removed mountains, and five ladies associated themselves with her in calling a public meeting. These ladies, Mrs. Louis J. Doyle, Miss Sarah Dean, Miss Mary E. Eddy, and Miss Sarah E. Doyle. The meeting was held at the rooms of the Irrepressible Society, on North Main street, February 18, 1876. Miss Doyle was made chairman, and Miss Eddy, secretary. Mrs. E. D. Cheney read a paper on Albert Dürer. A constitution that had been adopted at a preliminary meeting was accepted by this one, and a committee appointed to report officers at the next meeting.

At the second meeting a permanent organization was effected by the election of the following officers: President, Miss Sarah E. Doyle; vice-presi-

dents, Mrs. Fanny P. Palmer, Mrs. Lucy S. Bainbridge ; recording secretary, Miss Mary E. Eddy ; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Kate S. Sumner ; treasurer, Miss Grace Peckham.

The first and third Wednesday afternoons of each month, excepting June, July, August, and September, were voted to be the days for the meeting of the club. With the exception of a few times when the club has met in the evening, the regular meetings have been held on these days. At the first directors' meeting a discussion took place upon the admission of men to membership. It was decided not to be advisable. There have been only two meetings when men have been invited to take part in the discussion of papers. They were when Col. Carroll D. Wright, April 5, 1882, read a paper on the "Ethics of Machinery," and Dr. F. H. Hedge, May 6, 1885, one on the "Classic and Romantic."

The all-embracing sympathy of the Rhode Island Woman's Club was expressed in the name, which was not limited to the city of its birth, but included the State. It speaks well for the constitution that in the upwards of twenty years of its existence, though several times revised, the changes have not been radical, but confined mainly to business details. The admission fee, for example, which was at first two dollars, has been raised at different times until it is now ten dollars ; while the annual dues, which up to 1893 had been three dollars, were raised to five. By the first constitution the Board of Directors was elected annually ; now each member is elected for three years, two retiring each year, so that there is never an entirely new board.

There is no limit to the time the general officers may hold their places. At first there was no limit to membership, and the growth at the close of the first year brought the list to one hundred. In 1889 a membership limit was fixed at two hundred, and in 1892 this again was raised to two hundred and fifty.

When the club was organized, it was thought that the greatest benefit would be gained by members if they belonged to a section that would meet to discuss or study some subject. Accordingly sections were formed in art, literature, education, politics, and sociology. Members enrolled themselves in one or more as their tastes inclined. These sections met on the second and fourth Wednesdays of the month. Timid persons learned to discuss questions before a few, and in time gained self-possession, which enabled them to do the same before the club ; but after a few years busy women found they could give but two afternoons a month to club affairs. When the report from one of the sections stated that the average attendance was a woman and a half, it was conclusive evidence that the section work was ended.

It has been the custom of the club to have addresses from speakers who could be hired, when papers could not be secured from members. The ideal

however, has been that the educational stimulus of belonging to the club came from what a member did herself; consequently it is evidence of growth to report that each year has seen an advance in this direction. For the past four years committees have been formed on art, sociology, literature, history, and biography, and to each committee is entrusted the entertainment of one of the meetings in a month. The committee on any topic invites a few members to write short papers, and then the meeting is open for their discussion. This plan has secured more work by the members; it has awakened an interest in the club by the variety of opinion expressed; it has developed the power of those who speak, and foreshadows the time when the Rhode Island Woman's Club shall be one of the clubs that do not draw upon outside persons for instruction or entertainment.

The papers read during the first few years of the club's existence had no logical connection with each other. It is an indication of progress that the work has since been classified.

To anticipate a little, this classification continued until the season of 1895, when the Executive Board decided, after consultation with the standing committees, to make a new departure. The object was to bring out latent talent, and make the club meetings more diversified and attractive. To this end the members were asked to prepare papers, not upon specified or classified subjects, but upon any topic in which they were interested or particularly well informed. Literary matter of all kinds was hoped for, essays, short stories, travel, biography, anecdotes, verse,—in short, all the material usually found in a magazine. Each member was asked directly what contribution she would make to the club in this way for the ensuing year; and the plan, it is said, has worked "to a charm," and may be recommended at least as a change to all literary clubs.

In October, 1878, the Association for the Advancement of Women met in Providence by invitation of the Rhode Island Woman's Club. A brilliant reception was held by the club, when many prominent men and women paid their respects to the distinguished women of the association. Among this number were the president, Mrs. Kate N. Doggett, Miss Abby W. May, Prof. Maria Mitchell, Mrs. Abby M. Diaz, Mrs. Martha P. Lowe, Mrs. J. C. Croly, Misses Anna Brackett, Mary Eastman, and Alice Fletcher. The inspiration that came from meeting these ladies was fraught with benefit to individuals and to the city.

When Miss Doyle resigned the presidency after seven years' service, a complimentary lunch was given to her. It was a unique affair in this city, for fourteen ladies wittily and wisely responded to sentiments, proving that the club life had developed latent powers, enabling women to make the lunch a brilliant literary occasion.

The next social occasion was the celebration of the tenth anniversary by a banquet and addresses in Masonic Temple. A large number of guests were invited. The subjects of the addresses were the "History of the Club," the "Necrology," the "Benefit of the Club to Individuals," the "Influence of Women through Organizations," and the "Growth and Outlook of the Club." An original poem lightened the seriousness of the occasion.

After the R. I. W. C. became a member of the Federation of Women's Clubs it gladly welcomed the president, Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown, honoring her by the reception given, and testifying allegiance to the federation.

In November of 1892 the club extended its hospitality to the literary women of the State. Invitations were sent to all who were known. On this occasion Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer presided, giving the cordial welcome in a brief address, reading an extract from one of her stories, and a charming sonnet.

The exercises consisted of informal remarks, and the reading of extracts from their own writings, by the Rhode Island authoresses.

The monthly social afternoons, when tea is served to the members, are always enjoyed. They serve to improve mutual acquaintance and promote conversation which does not degenerate into idle talk.

The act of incorporation was not obtained until 1882, and was stimulated by the charge of a "memorial fund" created to honor the memory of Mrs. Churchill. Before her death she had established a course of lectures for working women, and the best method which suggested itself of perpetuating her name was to continue her work.

In January, 1882, a course of practical lectures, called the "Churchill Memorial Lectures," was carried on under the management of a committee chosen by the Executive Board of the club. The financial result was an addition to the fund, of ninety-three dollars. For four winters entertainments were given similar in character to the first course. It was then thought that whatever usefulness these lectures had at first, they had ceased to reach the class of persons for whom they were designed. Wisely was it decided to wait for some other method of keeping Mrs. Churchill's "memory green." This has presented itself by the admission of women to instruction in Brown University, for among the students a young woman of exceptional ability was striving for an education. The interest of the fund was given to her to assist in obtaining it. It is hoped that this fund of upwards of a thousand dollars may be increased in order that its income may result in greater beneficence.

In 1890 the R. I. W. C. joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

The members recognized that there must be a benefit to all clubs in being brought "into communication with the various women's clubs through-

out the world, in order that they may compare methods of work and become mutually helpful." The club was honored by having Mrs. Fanny P. Palmer made a member of the Advisory Board of the Federation.

The convention of the federated clubs in Chicago suggested the importance of having a badge by which members should be recognized as club-women. A very tasteful one was adopted, designed by one of the members, made of oxydized silver. From a bar is suspended by a ribbon, old gold in color, a medal, having engraved upon it the insignia of the club. The design is a pair of scales, having in one a distaff and in the other a book, a palette, and a musical instrument. As the scales are perfectly balanced, it typifies the principle that the club, together with the home, tends to make the perfectly developed woman.

The contribution of the Rhode Island Woman's Club to the exhibit at Chicago was a magnificent volume, bound in leather and lettered in gold, containing the portraits of its founder and presidents, its constitution and by-laws, its lists of officers, its history, by Miss Sarah E. Doyle, and a list of subjects discussed at its meetings, from its formation in 1876 to the close of 1892. It was one of the finest contributions to the exhibit and a complete summary of the life of the club.

The presidents of the Rhode Island Woman's Club have been: Miss Sarah E. Doyle, 1876 to 1884; Mrs. Elisha Dyer, 1884-85; Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, 1885 to 1888; Mrs. Mary A. Talbot, 1888-89; Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, 1889 to 1892; Miss Amelia S. Knight, 1892 to 1894; Mrs. B. H. Matteson, 1895 to 1897.

The organization of the club represents committees on literature, science, education, art, sociology, music, history and biography, and domestic economy. The list of subjects is most suggestive, and shows how broad and universal was the interest.

"Raphael" and the "Music of Nature" were preceded or followed by the "Limits of Responsibility," "Women in Art," "Indians as a National Problem," "Women in Medicine," "Relations of Insects to Flowers," "Epochs in Literature," and "Myths of the Iroquois."

"The ideal of the club," concludes Miss Doyle's history, "has, perhaps, not been attained. Yet it has been pleasant and profitable to its members. It has educated them to concerted action, giving them influence and prominent positions in the various church and society organizations of the city. Nothing has been more marked than the development which has characterized individual members. Certain at first that they could contribute nothing to benefit the club, they have become valuable participants in its work."

To this may be added that the Rhode Island Woman's Club has been the inspiration to club life among women all over the State.

From its membership and that of other women's clubs in Rhode Island was derived the inspiration to the Woman's College, of which Miss Doyle is the president, and of which, by the act of incorporation, Sarah E. Doyle, Amelia S. Knight, Mrs. E. B. Andrews, Mrs. Andrew Comstock, Mrs. William Ames, Mrs. R. H. I. Goddard, and Mrs. E. G. Radeke became the Board of Trustees.

The act of incorporation was taken out in September, 1896, for the collegiate education of women in the Woman's College of Brown University. So far the Collegiate School had maintained itself without endowment, paying all its bills from the tuition fees of its students; but it was now determined to plan for a building, and a committee was formed, composed of twenty-one women, who carried the enterprise to successful completion.

Miss Sarah E. Doyle represented the Rhode Island Woman's Club at the first convention called by Sorosis in March, 1889, and in 1890 the delegate was Miss Lorain P. Bucklin, whose "Studies of Famous Queens" has been given before so many women's clubs.

A glee club consisting of forty members was formed in the early days of the Rhode Island Woman's Club, which has been a source of great benefit and pleasure to the club, as well as to the individual members of its own circle.

The club has migrated seven times in its effort to find a suitable home. Nothing now is so much needed as club homes for club women, a need which it is to be hoped the near future will supply.

The Rhode Island State Federation was organized February 2, 1895, by fourteen delegates who met in an office of the Industrial Trust Company building at Providence, to consider and ratify a constitution that had been drawn up by a committee appointed at a meeting of the Rhode Island Woman's Club of Providence, October 31, 1894.

The clubs represented were: Rhode Island Woman's Club, Providence; Sarah E. Doyle Club, Providence; Current Topics Club, Newport; Coventry Woman's Club, Anthony; Round Table Club, Woonsocket; Olla Podrida Club, Woonsocket; Fortnightly Club, Woonsocket.

The meeting was called to order by Miss Anna Metcalf, chairman of the temporary organization.

Miss A. S. Knight reported that the committee appointed on Constitution had drawn up a form which the secretary had been requested to present to all the clubs of the State for alteration, addition, or change.

The secretary read a report compiled from answers to this communication received from the Olla Podrida Club, of Woonsocket; the Coventry Woman's Club, of Anthony; the Fortnightly Club, of Providence, and the Current Topics Club, of Newport.

It was voted that the report of the Committee on Constitution be accepted and the committee discharged.

The constitution was then discussed article by article, and finally adopted.

The object of the organization, as stated, is "to bring together for mutual help, for intellectual improvement, and for social union, the different women's clubs of the State."

The general officers and a director from each club constitute an executive board, no officer holding position for more than two terms consecutively.

The by-laws provide for the membership of the Rhode Island State Federation in the General Federation, and for annual dues of three dollars for



MRS. SUSAN A. BALLOU,
Treasurer of Rhode Island State
Federation



MISS AMELIA S. KNIGHT,
First President of Rhode Island State
Federation and Ex-President of
Woman's Club

each club of fifty members, with the addition of one dollar for every twenty-five members over fifty; the additional twenty-five carrying the right to an additional vote by delegate.

The officers elected were: President, Miss Amelia S. Knight, Rhode Island Woman's Club, Providence.

Vice-presidents, Miss Anna Metcalf, Fortnightly Club, Woonsocket; Miss Ruth B. Franklin, Current Topics Club, Newport; Mrs. Cyrus Arnold, Round Table Club, Woonsocket; corresponding secretary, Miss Katharine H. Allan, Current Topics Club, Newport; recording secretary, Miss Stella C. Allen, Sarah E. Doyle Club, Providence; treasurer, Mrs. Henry L. Ballou, Olla Podrida Club, Woonsocket.

Directors, Mrs. Fanny Purdy Palmer, Rhode Island Woman's Club, Providence; Miss Abby M. Harvey, Sarah E. Doyle Club, Providence; Mrs. Joseph P. Cotton, Current Topics Club, Newport; Miss Mary W. Brownell, Fortnightly Club, Woonsocket; Miss Lizzie Mowry, Round Table Club, Woonsocket; Mrs. S. P. Cook, Olla Podrida Club, Woonsocket; Mrs. Edwin Anthony, Coventry Women's Club, Anthony.

This first meeting was one of an almost purely business character. It focussed the efforts which had been made by the Rhode Island Woman's Club for months preceding, and brought them to the formative point in a State federation. The social side was left to a later date, and found its expression two months after on April 20th, at the first annual breakfast given by the Rhode Island State Federation of Women's Clubs.

The gathering was the most brilliant and representative that had ever been seen in Rhode Island.

An additional club had been added to the mystic seven in the interval; but these clubs, with their officers and visiting membership, only partly represented the social eminence and vital character of the individual parts of this collective gathering.

The State president, Miss Amelia S. Knight, was assisted in receiving by all the officers and the majority of the directors. The toasts were: "Club Work in Rhode Island," responded to by Miss Katharine H. Allan, chairman of State correspondence; "The Club and the Home," Miss Cynthia Porter, of the Country Club; "Rhode Island Branch Collegiate Alumnæ," Miss Ruth B. Franklin, Current Topics Club; "Mutual Helpers," Mrs. Ira B. Cook, Olla Podrida Club; "The Origin of Our Name," Mrs. William C. Peckham, Paradise Club; "The Round Table Club," Mrs. Cyrus Arnold; "The New Woman," Mrs. Charles Matteson, the Rhode Island Woman's Club; "Our Boys and Girls," Miss Stella C. Allen, the Sarah E. Doyle Club; "The Influence of the Club in the Community," Miss Anna Metcalf, Woonsocket Fortnightly Club; "Sorosis," Mrs. William Todd Helmuth; "Chief End of Women's Clubs," Mrs. Estelle M. H. Merrill; "Professional Women of Rhode Island," Mrs. Anna Garlin Spencer; "Women in Journalism," Mrs. Elizabeth Merritt Gosse; "Massachusetts' Greeting to Rhode Island," Mrs. Jennie K. Adams; "Higher Education of Women in Rhode Island," Miss Sarah E. Doyle; "Women in Egypt," Mrs. Alice Ives Breed; "Literary Women of Rhode Island," Mrs. Fannie Purdy Palmer; "Maine and Men," Mrs. Etta H. Osgood. Among the guests from Maine, besides Mrs. Osgood, was Mrs. Frye, chairman of State correspondence.

The annual convention of the Rhode Island State Federation was held on March 14, 1896, at Woonsocket, by invitation of the Fortnightly, the Olla Podrida, and the Round Table clubs.

Miss Knight, the president of the Federation, called the meeting to order, and spoke earnestly of the power for good of the non-partisan, non-sectarian women's clubs, and the stimulus created by bringing together from all parts of the State women who are interested in similar subjects, and to discuss them in common.

Miss Anna Metcalf, president of the Woonsocket Fortnightly, responded, and the usual minutes and reports followed.

Miss Allen, the corresponding secretary, reported two clubs having been admitted during the year, making a total of nine clubs and a membership of seven hundred and fifty. The board had selected golden brown as a State color. The short reports of the federated clubs and the routine business were quickly dispatched. Miss Katharine H. Allan, State chairman of correspondence, spoke of the work of the General Federation, and urged practical work upon all federated clubs.

Mrs. Fannie Purdy Palmer, vice-president of the National Household Economic Association, spoke of the object and line of work of this organization, and recommended its programme to the Rhode Island clubs.

The afternoon was given to a paper by Mrs. Margaret Deland, upon "The Value of the Novel." Mrs. Deland's personality charmed her audience, which consisted of about three hundred club women, fifty of whom were officers and delegates of the State Federation.

A reception followed the paper, the details of which were made most delightful by the hostess clubs.

The only changes in the official list, wrought by the election, was the substitution of Miss Harriet B. Bailey, of the Rhode Island Woman's Club, for Miss Katharine H. Allan, of the Current Topics Club, of Newport, as corresponding secretary; and in the list of directors, Mrs. Peckham in place of Miss J. H. Swainey, of the Current Topics Club. The additions to the directorship were Mrs. W. C. Peckham, of the Paradise Club, of Middletown, and Mrs. Emerson P. Blake, of the Ardirhebiah Club, of Providence.

The annual meeting of April, 1897, was held at Newport, by invitation of Current Topics and Paradise clubs, of that city. The president of Current Topics is Mrs. A. J. Langley, first vice-president of the State Federation.

Paradise Club is represented in the directorship by Mrs. Wayland Smith.

The convention assembled on the morning of the 24th, the delegates receiving a cordial welcome from Mrs. Langley, to which the president of the federation, Miss Amelia Knight, responded in a delightful address of congratulation upon the healthy growth of the federated life.

The chairman of State correspondence gave an interesting account of the value of two books to club women; one, "The Report of the Biennial

Convention of the General Federation for 1896," the other, the "History of the Club Movement," now in preparation.

The roll-call showed the presence of fifty-three club members, representing eleven clubs. Four minutes each were allowed to reports from local clubs. These were very interesting, showing how from their early literary beginnings they were gradually branching out into the practical study of methods in parliamentary usage, household economics, and the scientific study of philanthropy. Psychology and natural science also engage attention, particularly in their relation to child life, and the study of living objects, such as birds and animals, in their relation to man.

Olla Podrida, of Woonsocket, received congratulations on having celebrated its twenty-fifth anniversary.

The election of officers resulted in the choice of: president, Miss Anna Metcalf, of the Woonsocket Fortnightly; first vice-president, Mrs. Langley, Current Topics, Newport; second vice-president, Mrs. C. Matteson, of Rhode Island Woman's Club; third vice-president, Miss E. A. Salisbury, Sarah E. Doyle Club; corresponding secretary, Miss H. Bailey, Rhode Island Woman's Club; recording secretary, Miss J. M. Ballou, Fortnightly, Woonsocket; treasurer, Miss S. A. Rawson, Rhode Island Woman's Club.

The meeting adjourned for a charming luncheon served by the hostess clubs of Newport.

At three o'clock the delegates were again called to order by Miss Knight. She introduced Professor Morse, who entertained the audience by a valuable address upon "Science at the Dawn of the Twentieth Century." He spoke of the wonderful discoveries in medical and surgical science, including the use of carbolic acid and other antiseptics; the experiments with bacilli; the use of anti-toxine; the wonders of the Roentgen rays; and the power of electricity in all forms.

He proceeded to dwell on the law of the survival of the fittest, illustrating by laws governing animal life, showing how many more birds and animals die than survive, and what a wise provision it is.

He blamed women for the sentimentality which feeds the idle and helps the unworthy. There was fine music before and after the address.

The directors for 1897-98 are as follows: Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Johnson, Mrs. Harrington, Mrs. Buckham, Miss Sheldon, Miss Ballou, Miss Pond, Mrs. Smith, Miss Hunt, Mrs. Edward, Miss Pike, and Mrs. Thomas.

The resignation of Miss Anna Metcalf on account of illness resulted in the choice of Miss Ellen G. Hunt as president of the Rhode Island Federation in her stead. Miss Hunt is an able presiding officer, and a sincere, cultivated woman whose broad and sympathetic outlook upon life and its interests renders her an inspiring leader.

The Rhode Island Federation now represents fourteen active clubs, with an individual membership of nine hundred and fifty-five women. These clubs are: The Bristol Fortnightly, organized January, 1897, for literary work. The president is Mrs. C. B. Rockwell; secretary, Miss Anna Fitch; the membership twenty. Coventry Women's Club was organized in July, 1890, and has sixty members. Its special work is in household economics. Its president is Mrs. Ida Harrington; secretary, Mrs. M. E. Anthony. Paradise Club, of Middletown, dates from 1887. Its work is literary, mainly reading with conversation upon what is read, and papers upon special subjects. It has seventeen members, and president, Mrs. W. C. Peckham; secretary, Mrs. F. W. Smith. Current Topics Club, of Newport, was organized February, 1892. Its membership is fifty-one women, with Mrs. A. G. Langley as president; secretary, Miss Leavitt. It works under three departments: Literature, science, and art. The Ardirhebiah Club, of Providence, was formed in 1886, and federated ten years later. It works under departments in literature, art, and historical research. Its membership is thirty women; president, Mrs. E. P. Blake; secretary, Mrs. G. W. Pettis. Rhode Island Woman's Club is the largest club in the federation. It has two hundred and fifty members. It has been allied with the General Federation since 1890, and works under six departments: Art, science, biography, history, literature, and sociology. It was organized in February, 1876, and has had a prosperous life of twenty-two years. Sarah E. Doyle Club ranks next in size. It has two hundred members, and works by lectures and in classes. It was formed June, 1894, and has for president, Miss Blundell; secretary, Miss A. P. Walker. Woonsocket contributes five clubs to the federation; of these the oldest is Olla Podrida, founded February, 1872. This is the oldest club in the federation. Woonsocket Fortnightly, dating from 1889, has one hundred and fifty members, working under three departments: Literature, science, and sociology. Home Literary Club is devoted to history and literature. Its president is Mrs. F. A. Thayer; secretary, N. N. Orbin. O. M. S. C. is a Shakespeare club, organized February, 1887; president, Miss F. Bullock. It has a membership of twenty-five, but introduces lectures to a larger public. Woonsocket Round Table has seventy-five members. It was organized January, 1893, and works in literature and current events. Its special subjects for the year, apart from current events, are American authors. Providence has added two clubs to the federation during the year: Read, Mark, and Learn Club, and Fortnightly of the Church of the Mediator. These bring the whole number up to fourteen clubs.

The annual meeting (1898) is announced to be held in Anthony at the invitation of the Coventry Woman's Club.

The morning session will be given to business, the afternoon to papers

on a variety of subjects interesting to club women, by speakers representing different clubs in the federation. A special address is anticipated from Mrs. May Alden Ward, of Cambridge, Mass.

The president, Miss Ellen G. Hunt, writes that the condition of the federation is prosperous and promising, and that it will probably adopt some special line of work in 1898, in accordance with the suggestion of the General Federation.

Fortnightly Club, of Woonsocket, was organized in November, 1889. A small reading club, the Olla Podrida, had existed for years; but the need was felt, by Mrs. Helen M. Wiggin, Miss Anna Metcalf, and others who had been among its members, of a centre of larger possibilities and more diversified



FORTNIGHTLY CLUB, WOONSOCKET, R. I.

MISS ANNA METCALF, President

MRS. CYRUS ARNOLD, Ex-President

MRS. H. WIGGIN, Founder

aims. The avowal of this object met with gratifying response, and the Woonsocket Fortnightly Club was founded, with Mrs. Helen M. Wiggin as its first president. Her sudden death at the close of the first year of the club's life struck its membership, at first, with a sense of paralysis. During this brief time Mrs. Wiggin had greatly endeared herself to the organization, and exhibited qualities which seemed destined to lead it to success. It was felt, however, that the best way to honor her memory was to continue her work, and when Mrs. Cyrus Arnold, a woman of wide culture and experience, became the second president, the future seemed no longer uncertain.

At the beginning of the fourth year Miss Anna Metcalf was called to the chair, and has remained the presiding officer since that time. No other woman has given so much time and thought to the Fortnightly work and its

development as Miss Metcalf, and her influence has always been in favor of the best methods and activities.

For the first three years the membership was limited to one hundred, and a vote in January, 1893, to extend this limit was lost. This led to the formation of a new club, the Round Table, which at once reached its limit of seventy-five members. In 1894 the limit of the Fortnightly was extended to one hundred and fifty, and so remains.

The standing committees of the Fortnightly are upon club papers, music, club teas, and the reception of speakers. No continuous course of study is outlined. The subjects are independent of each other, and consist of such topics as "Modern Essayists," "Murillo Painting and Stained Glass," "The Roentgen Rays Illustrated," "The Sweating System," "Tendencies of Nineteenth Century Literature," "Prison Reform Work," and the "Cuban Revolution." Through the discussions and efforts of the Fortnightly, though not directly by the club, a free kindergarten has been established in Woonsocket, and since its opening the club has contributed the amount of a life-membership fee. It also contributed and published an original magazine, which was sold for the benefit of the kindergarten.

The club color and flower are violet; the insignia, a small pin in the shape of a shield, in white enamel and gold, with the monogram "W. F. C." in gold.

The officers (1897) are: President, Miss Anna Metcalf; vice-presidents, Mrs. S. A. Ballou, Mrs. L. L. Chilson; treasurer, Mrs. C. B. Armstrong; recording secretary, Mrs. E. D. Clarke; corresponding secretary, Miss Jennie M. Ballou.

The Current Events Club, of Newport, was organized in February, 1892, and has now a membership of fifty women.

It is a hard-working, conscientious club, meeting every week for six months of the year, every member participating in its work, and as yet possessing no social features apart from companionship in coming together. There is a waiting list, though not a long one, for a conservative spirit prevails, and a standard in work is set which requires a spirit of devotion to reach.

The president is Mrs. A. G. Langley; the secretary, Miss Mary Leavitt. It is one of the few clubs in Rhode Island which have joined the General Federation.

The Sarah E. Doyle Club, of Providence, was organized in June, 1894. It is composed of two hundred women, many of them teachers from the schools of Providence. The primary object was mutual aid and culture of the members in the line of their professional work, but this was found capable of wide application, and has not yet been systematized in permanent form.

The work for the first two years was largely experimental; it then

arranged itself in lectures and classes. It now begins to expand in the direction of original talks and discussions, the classes strengthening and the lectures reaching a public.

The president is Miss Charlotte Blundell; the secretary, Miss A. P. Walker.

Early Clubs.—The first formed woman's club in the State of Rhode Island was the **Olla Podrida**, of Woonsocket, founded in 1872. Its membership limit is thirteen, and its work during the present year (1897), psychological research. Formed as a reading class, its work from year to year has taken the direction of united preference. It has maintained, however, an unbroken existence, and may be considered to have sown the seed of the present active club life of Woonsocket.

The president is Mrs. Mary H. Ellis; the secretary, Mrs. Ida C. Cook.

The Rhode Island Woman's Club, organized in 1876, was the first which represented all-round club organization, and created the influence now felt throughout the State. In 1886, ten years afterwards, the Ardirhebiah Club was formed. This consists of thirty women organized for work in literature, art, and historical research. Its historical work has been especially good, and its scope wide in this direction, using comparative methods and a comprehensive treatment of its subjects. The president is Mrs. Emerson P. Blake; the secretary, Mrs. G. W. Pettis.

The Paradise Club, of Middletown, ranks next in order of formation. It dates from 1887. It is a neighborhood club of seventeen members, and its work consists principally of selected readings, and discussions upon what is read. Some original papers have been given, and the willingness, even desire, for original work increases.

The president is Mrs. W. C. Peckham; secretary, Mrs. F. W. Smith.

The Coventry Woman's Club, Coventry, was born July, 1890. It has sixty members. The president is Mrs. Ida Harrington; secretary, Mrs. M. E. Anthony. Its work at present is the discussion of topics connected with household economics, and they are very practical in character. It also discusses neighborhood improvements and particularly current topics.

The O. M. S. C., of Woonsocket, is a club of twenty-five members for Shakespearean study and lectures. It was organized in February, 1887, and is composed of young women. Miss Florence Bullock is the president, and Miss Grace Hanlett, the secretary.

The Home Literary Club of twenty-five members was organized in Woonsocket, in April, 1896. It is strictly a study club; its work comprising history, biography, and poetry. Its president is Mrs. F. A. Thayer, and its secretary, Mrs. N. M. Orbin.

The Bristol Fortnightly Club dates only from January, 1897. It has

twenty members, and was formed for literary study and conversation upon literary topics. Its president is Mrs. C. B. Rockwell; secretary, Miss Anna Fitch.

The Round Table Club, of Woonsocket, was formed in 1893 with fifty members, increased the following year to seventy-five. It meets in parlors, and discusses current events, each member taking part, with an occasional lecturer. The first officers were: Mrs. Cyrus Arnold, president; Miss M. W. Brownell and Mrs. C. B. Armstrong, vice-presidents; Mrs. S. H. Ballou, secretary; Miss M. A. Mowey, treasurer. The Round Table joined the Rhode Island Federation in 1893. Current events at home and abroad form the principal study, with some outside lectures on special topics. Membership is limited to present number, seventy-five. The annual meeting occurs the first Tuesday in May, and the list of officers is the same as in the beginning, with the exception of Mrs. E. M. Slocumb, who is now second vice-president. The office of corresponding secretary was created in 1896, and Miss L. D. Mowry serves in that capacity. Following is the list of directors for the present year: Mrs. L. L. Chilson, Mrs. F. Y. Comee, Mrs. Mary Steere, Mrs. Wm. Grout, Mrs. Chas. Horton, Miss Jennie Ballou.

The Town and Country Club, of Newport, has been distinguished for a number of years as the place of meeting of the Summer Town and Country Club. These meetings were held at the residence of the president, Mrs. Julia Ward Howe, and were at somewhat irregular intervals, during the months of July, August, and September.

The membership was both men and women. Colonel T. W. Higginson was the first treasurer, and Professor William B. Rogers the first vice-president. The gatherings resolved themselves into summer sessions in a way of the New England Woman's Club, but with a more social character, and an expansion of hospitality characteristic of the season and the reputation of Newport. The first "blue tea" is supposed to have been given at the Town and Country Club, in 1875, and every guest was expected to contribute a written verse or paragraph to the exercises of the occasion, or a written excuse for failing to do so.

Many distinguished men and women have been received by the Town and Country Club, for an invitation from the gifted president was a distinction. It is a distinct loss that the Town and Country Club, as a club, has ceased to exist.

South Carolina

WOMEN'S CLUBS IN SOUTH CAROLINA

The Ladies' Library Association, of Spartanburg, must be referred to as the beginning of the woman's literary movement in South Carolina. This association originated in November, 1884. A free library had been projected as a memorial to Dr. Lionel C. Kennedy. His widow had given for the purpose the site occupied by his office for many years. The citizens had subscribed a sufficient amount to put up an attractive building, but at this point the serious problem confronted the trustees of the library as to how books were to be provided. There was no endowment, and there was no prospect of any further gifts.

At the suggestion of Mrs. Means, the wife of one of the trustees, cards were issued by the trustees to fifty representative women, inviting them to meet the Board on a certain date, and confer about the possibilities of securing books.

Nine ladies responded. The trustees stated the condition in which they found themselves, and asked the good offices of the women. The number called, however, was too few. The ladies present decided to effect an organization. This was done. It was called "The Library Association." The object, "to procure books for the Kennedy Free Library." On the 15th of December, 1884, the fifteen ladies forming this association met and elected Mrs. E. L. McLaughlin president. The following April an entertainment was given by which three hundred dollars was realized. This was the first of a series of lectures, concerts, hot suppers, fairs, and all the devices to which women resort to make money for what they consider a good object. Their labors resulted in placing five thousand well-selected volumes on the library shelves and all the best magazines and periodical literature on the reading tables.

The influence of this work in a small town, with no wealthy patronage and no gifts, cannot be comprehended in larger and richer communities.

After serving as president one year Mrs. McLaughlin declined a reelection, and Mrs. Means became the presiding officer, a position she has con-

tinued to fill ever since, excepting for one year, when from ill-health she was unable to serve.

Last year literary features were introduced for the first time into the association. Before this it had been a purely philanthropic body, associated for a distinct and specialized work.

The members of the association had no privileges in the use of books beyond that accorded any other citizen of the town. Their work was purely for the public benefit.

Since their organization literary clubs have been started, and the Library Association, from its membership of one hundred, has founded a literary club with sixty-five names on its roll-call.

The work is strong and earnest and greatly aids in broadening the life and extending the influence among the younger people, who would find it hard to realize what the intellectual life of the community was before the Library Association and women's clubs had an existence.

The Thursday Club, of Greenville, was organized in the autumn of 1889. For two years it barely survived the ridicule or indifference with which it was met. By that time the club life of women had grown into a power that penetrated even the most conservative communities, and had taken on an educational and literary aspect that compelled respect even where it did not excite sympathy.

The new influence exhibited itself in an interest and accelerated growth that soon made it one of the most successful clubs in the State. To the limit of thirty members was added an impatient waiting list, and what was called the "club idea" became an inspiring part of the town life.

Two other clubs have since been formed, the "Thursday Afternoon," in 1894, and the "West End," in 1896.

The founder of the Thursday Club was Mrs. Mary P. Gridley, who is still (1897) its president. The secretary and treasurer is Mrs. H. T. Flanders.

The club has done excellent work in its studies in Italy, France, and, later, American history.

Its programme of studies in French life and history is worthy of being taken as a model.

The meetings are weekly, and the president is the chairman of the Programme Committee, which is appointed by herself.

Officers are elected annually, and roll-call is responded to by quotation.

The growth and strength of the Thursday Club has been naturally and gradually acquired by the steadfastness of its method.

"Over the Teacups," Spartanburg, grew in 1892 out of the need felt by a group of women for such help and encouragement as come from exchange of ideas and opinions.

Its object, as stated in the constitution, is "the literary improvement and social enjoyment of its members."

The officers were a "mistress," "dictator," "counsellor," and "scribe." The dictator was practically the presiding officer; the counsellor, the one who arranged the subjects for study; the mistress, the critic; and the scribe, the secretary.

The meetings were fortnightly, and the by-laws provided that each member should furnish in turn the tea, sugar, and crackers required for refreshment. Also, that each one should bring her own cup, saucer, and napkin.

The number was first limited to twenty-five, but is gradually increasing.

The studies have been drawn from American history, shrines and haunts of English poets, and American authors.

While it has no great achievement to rehearse, each member feels that she has been brought in touch with her ideals, has acquired clearer habits of thought, can form a better judgment, has developed higher aims, and collectively awakened a literary enthusiasm whose influence is elevating standards of public life and thought.

"We have," writes the historian, "opened the 'valves of our thought sprinklers,' and gathered treasures of intellectual gold as we sat with the autocrat at the 'Breakfast Table,' or lingered 'Over the Teacups' rehearsing our acquaintance with the 'Schoolmistress' and 'Professor.' We have gathered mosses from the 'Old Manse' with Hawthorne, and been taken back to the gallant days of the Crusades with Tennyson in the 'Idylls of the King.' We have studied the problems of life with George Eliot, and found the inspiration of a 'good diffused.' We even feel sometimes as if we had caught a note of that music which makes the 'gladness of the world.'"

"Over the Teacups" joined the Federation of Clubs to be led into broader fields, and come into closer touch with the intelligence and culture of the great body of American women.

Its officers are: Dictator, Mrs. J. D. Pettie; counsellor, Mrs. A. F. Garlington; mistress, Mrs. S. C. Means; scribe, Mrs. L. L. McLaughlin.

The **Wednesday Club**, of Laurens, began with an effort on the part of three women in November, 1895, to form a literary centre for the purpose of study and such literary work as might grow out of it.

"*Vires acquirit eundo.*" These ladies were Mrs. J. D. Watts, Mrs. C. C. Featherstone, and Mrs. W. E. Lucas. In December an organization was effected, with Mrs. Lucas as the president and Mrs. Bascome Gritton as the secretary.

The first studies were upon American authors, but after a time it was decided that, though the meetings had been greatly enjoyed, the work would be more satisfactory if planned and a programme arranged a year in advance.

This was carried out for 1896; the authors including Bryant, Prescott, Emerson, Bancroft, Hawthorne, Whittier, Lowell, and others. These were followed by a study of the causes and history of the civil war, the decisive battles, and the historic generals, including a careful study of Lincoln.

The work is assigned to the members in the form of essays, criticism, biography, selections from the works, and general discussion. Time is always given to a summary of current events, and the work has proceeded steadily and harmoniously.

The general subject for 1897-98 is English literature. But the great need that is felt is of books and "more books."

The club is making arrangements to form a library and also to establish a lecture course.

The motto is "*Vires acquirit eundo*," and the members lived up to it. No violation of rule has ever been known, and therefore no fine has ever been imposed. The membership of twenty has gradually increased from fourteen. Each one is elected by unanimous ballot.

This "Senate of Matrons," as it is sometimes called, has recently changed its name to the Fortnightly Club. The president and secretary remain as at first.

Doubtless there are many reading and study clubs in South Carolina of which it has seemed impossible to gain any record.

A little Shakespeare club in Union dates from 1887. It was formed by a group of ladies who agreed to meet regularly once a week for the study of Shakespeare. The requirement was that each should read aloud in turn, that each should correct errors of pronunciation, and submit to such correction herself.

From a somewhat larger membership the number was reduced to eight, where it remained, and continued its life and work for five years. No other element entered into it during that time but the united love of the study—not so much as a cup of tea or any social feature.

Its vitality seemed to indicate the existence of club material, which, properly directed, would have grown into a force; but which, under the circumstances, lapsed for want of encouragement.

Tennessee



The **Ossoli Circle**, of Knoxville, was the second woman's club, so far as known, formed in Tennessee. In November, 1884, some dozen ladies met together at the invitation of Mrs. L. Crozier French, the principal of the leading school in Knoxville and a progressive woman, to consider the project of a literary organization.

In so conservative a city the idea of a society exclusively for women was novel; organization by women was decidedly an advanced step. Club was not to be thought of, and no one dared to propose the name. Friends smiled incredulously, assured that the new fancy would be short-lived. But Knoxville had good material, the women were intelligent and capable, and though many had never before given thought to literary matters a field was all that was necessary to develop latent talent, while to some who had enjoyed superior educational advantages an opportunity was afforded to use their acquirements. At the first meeting a simple organization was effected. The first officers elected, with the exception of the vice-president, held their positions unchanged for four years. The management of the society was virtually in their hands.

At the first informal meeting the president suggested Ossoli Circle as an appropriate name, in honor of Margaret Fuller Ossoli. This was accepted, and meetings were arranged weekly from the first Monday in November to the first Monday in May.

The work of the first four years was varied and instructive. Especially did the study of Emerson, Ruskin, Carlyle, and Dante mark an era in the history. Social features were not lacking, and Ossoli began to be felt as a power, especially as the members were almost entirely well-known people. Particularly memorable was a reception to Mr. Bancroft, and later to Charles Dudley Warner upon his visit to Knoxville.

The subjects were usually treated under from four to six divisions, the method left to the members receiving the assignments. General discussion followed the papers or addresses.

The first club convention called by Sorosis in 1889 was an epoch. Miss Mary B. Temple, the president, was sent as a delegate from Ossoli. As a result of the new ideas obtained, a change was effected in the organization. A new order was instituted, a new constitution was drafted, and rotation in office established. The change proved a decided success. The positive advantages of division of labor, bringing a larger number into positions of responsibility, became at once apparent. A new life, a new enthusiasm was imparted to the work and to the members. The influence extended beyond Knoxville. Literary societies sprang up in several adjacent towns, and the work of club extension followed as the natural outgrowth of the club spirit.

In 1892 Ossoli began the publication of a year-book, with programmes arranged and classified under the proper committees. "Education of Girls" was the subject of a group of papers, followed by a conversation on "Coëducation of the Sexes." There was an afternoon with the famous musicians of the classical period, a "Shakespeare" day, an "Emerson" and "Lowell" day, and one given to the twelve world-famous pictures. "Literary London" was the subject of delightful papers, followed by conversations, and the year closed with a symposium on "Modern Novels and Novelists."

The work has gone straight in its line of literary development. It is done under the heads of History, Literature and Art, Education and Science, with a committee on the preparation of the programme.

It has developed a fine body of debaters as well as students, and discusses its subjects with breadth and freedom.

It has been a member of the General Federation since 1889, and of the State Federation since its formation in 1896.

Its presidents have been six—Miss Mary B. Temple for first five years, 1885-90; Mrs. A. G. Woodbury, 1890-92; Mrs. H. R. Gibson, 1892-94; Mrs. M. H. McTeer, 1894-95; Mrs. C. J. McClung, 1895-96; Mrs. A. W. Perkins, 1896-97.

The club motto is "Strength in union," the decorative colors used are lavender and white, and the flower the violet. Ossoli contributed to the club exhibit at the International Exposition at Atlanta a very handsome chair made in Knoxville, of East Tennessee wood, and with arms of the State, as well as the insignia of the club employed in the carving. This chair was used by Mrs. Henrotin during the Federation Congress at Atlanta, and at the close of the exposition was returned to Knoxville and became the chair of the president of Ossoli.

Ossoli has given, from the list of its presidents, a president to the Woman's Auxiliary to the Centennial Board, Mrs. McTeer, who was also State Chairman of Correspondence for the General Federation. Its president, 1896-97, Mrs. A. W. Perkins, was also the first recording secretary of the State Federation.



OSOLI CIRCLE, OF KNOXVILLE, TENN.

Miss M. B. Temple, First President

Mrs. M. H. McTeer, Ex-President

Mrs. C. J. McClung, Ex-President

Mrs. A. W. Perkins, President

Mrs. H. R. Gibson, Ex-President

Ossoli issued the call for the first meeting to organize the State forces, and its members are leading the latest enterprise for the acquisition of a woman's club building to be used by the women's clubs of the city.

The Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, of Knoxville, was founded by Mrs. L. Crozier French in January, 1890. It has departments in education, philanthropy, civics, home, protective and reformatory, and current events. Its sub-committees in civics represent town improvements and health protection, and a later committee a day nursery.



MRS. L. C. FRENCH,
Founder Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, Knoxville, Tenn.

Twenty churches are represented by two of their members in the directory of the union. These include six Presbyterian, two Episcopal, three Methodist Episcopal, two Baptist, two Congregational, one Unitarian, one Universalist, one Jewish, one Roman Catholic, and one Memorial church. This shows a wide and inclusive platform and membership, and a desire to realize the object as stated in the constitution, "to bring about a more perfect union between women of all classes, do hereby form an association for the purpose of laboring together for this end, with the hope that such union will lead to higher spiritual, moral, intellectual, physical, and financial conditions."

In the seven years of its existence the union has accomplished some of the things it started to effect, and has become an acknowledged factor in philanthropic work, as well as an influence in civic affairs. It was upon the suggestion of the union that the City Council established the office of police matron, ratifying its nomination of a woman who, after several years, still retains the position. By repeated appeals and petitions the union succeeded in separating children and women criminals from the men, and obtained an advisory committee of women to visit the women's prison and make such suggestions as seemed necessary for the government and employment of the inmates.

The Industrial Bureau is, perhaps, the one in which most time and strength is expended. Every winter from fifty to a hundred poor women are furnished with sewing, for which they are suitably paid. The garments they make are offered for sale by a committee of the women, who receive a commission on the money obtained. The garments not sold are given to the very needy and to the various benevolent organizations of the city, all of which are represented in the membership of the union.

The work done shows marked improvement from year to year, and, in a number of cases, has developed into a permanent means of livelihood.

The union was instrumental in interesting a number of young women in the children of the poor beneficiaries of this bureau, and these young women established a free kindergarten, which has been very successful.

The Women's Exchange has been a source of considerable revenue which is used for the charities of the union and has furnished an opportunity of employment to many consignors. It has also elevated the standard of cooking, and the housekeepers of the city patronize and appreciate the institution. It is the desire of the union to enlarge the proportions of this enterprise so that it may be in time a bureau of exchange for woman's work of all kinds.

The meetings in connection with the union and at its rooms are, in addition to necessary business, largely given to the discussion of such practical questions as naturally grow out of consideration of the work. Among the topics have been "The Attitude of Women of Leisure toward their Wage-earning Sisters," "The German System of Poor Relief," "Poverty and Pauperism," "College Settlements," "Coöperation and Success," "Anarchy and the Law-makers," "Prison Reform," "Preventive Measures," "Women on School Boards," "Relation of Friendly Visiting to Philanthropic Movements," "Sociology as the Basis of Effective Charity," and "Good Homes the Foundation of Good Citizenship."

The president (1896-97) is Mrs. John H. Frazee; vice-president, Mrs. M. McClung; recording secretary, Mrs. Charles Pitman; corresponding secretary, Mrs. H. G. Bayless; treasurer, Mrs. Williams; chairmen of departments, Mrs. L. C. French, Mrs. C. McClung, Mrs. C. Perkins, Mrs. C. M. McClung, Mrs. Lon Warner, Miss Alida Rule, Mrs. E. S. McClung, Mrs. Samuel McKinney, Miss Mary B. Temple, Mrs. Charles Thoms.



The Nineteenth Century Club, of Memphis, was the first organized on modern lines in that city, and is numerically the largest in the State. The foundations were laid by Mrs. Clarence Selden, a woman of recognized social standing, of many graces of mind and person, and unusual advantages, both of education and travel. She worked persistently for years, and at last won a few women to consider



MRS. J. H. FRAZEE,
President Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, Knoxville, Tenn

favorably a plan to furnish a literary and social centre for the women of Memphis.

Southern women are specially home-keepers. It was a tradition that they must be guarded and kept from contact with the outside world. A "club" was a plunge which carried with it only the idea of something dreadful to their minds, and particularly to the minds of the men of their families.

Book clubs had existed which were not clubs in any modern sense, but parlor gatherings, or small circles for the reading and distribution of magazines and books among subscribers.

The best known of these in Memphis was the "Thackeray," which obtained a social reputation from the charming personality of its leader, Mrs. W. J. Crawford, and the social distinction of her position.

Mrs. W. D. Beard, the first president of the State Federation and a progressive woman, had also formed as far back as 1871 a "Friends in Council," but this small group later became absorbed in the "Woman's Club," to which it contributed a quiet and studious but delightful element.

Bringing women together, all kinds of women, was quite a new idea, and was felt by many good women to be both radical and dangerous. It was the spring of 1890 before Mrs. Selden's plan crystallized into fulfillment. The organization was effected with a charter membership of about thirty women, Mrs. R. C. Brinkley, a woman universally beloved and respected, was chosen president by acclamation. There were also two vice-presidents, a recording and corresponding secretary, and a treasurer. As set forth in the constitution, the objects of the club were: "First, to provide a centrally located reading-room for the members, wherein should be kept on file the best periodical literature; second, to encourage a spirit of research in literary fields and to provide an intellectual centre for the women of Memphis."

This formula but feebly represented the spirit which inspired these women. Their aims in the new departure were deeply religious; they were stirred by the modern spirit, and desired ardently to stimulate hope and courage in women, enlarge and increase their intellectual horizon and activities; to better fit them to direct the education and training of their children, and bring them nearer a true place in their husbands' life and interests.

The club sustained a great loss in its first year of life by the death of its president, Mrs. Brinkley. Her place was, however, filled with exceptional ability by the first vice-president, Mrs. Ensley, who completed the unexpired term. The aim of the club to provide a "centre" was from the first kept strictly in view. Its early home was two small rooms, but even here it formed the nucleus of a library, and made them "homelike" in the true sense by the

graceful touches which refined women always know how to add to an environment.

The first active work was to bring lecturers to the town whose reputation was such as to make the venture pecuniarily successful for the first time in Memphis. The money thus obtained furnished the fund by which this branch of the work has been carried on with ever-increasing success.



ENTRANCE TO NINETEENTH CENTURY CLUB, MEMPHIS, TENN.

By 1892 the membership had grown to one hundred and fifty women, divided into committees upon literature, art, education, music, philosophy, science, social economics, and philanthropy. Some of these committees form study-classes, but all contribute to the literary activity of the club. It entertained that year the Association for the Advancement of Women, with distin-

guished success, and, besides its lecture bureau, brings to Memphis every year art exhibits which are among the features of the season.

At the second annual election Mrs. Selden, the founder of the club, was chosen president, and by her zeal and ability increased the impulse in every direction. Mrs. J. H. Watson succeeded Mrs. Selden.

By this time the club had grown to dimensions that demanded larger quarters; but it was not until 1895 that it obtained its present fine suite of rooms in the Lyceum. These include a hall, a reading-room, which is also the



CORNER IN READING-ROOM OF NINETEENTH CENTURY CLUB OF MEMPHIS, TENN.

library, a committee room, and a reception room. Excellent work has been done through the civic department for the improvement of the city. Streets have been cleansed, garbage disposed of, housekeepers pledged to beautify and clean back yards and alleys, shade trees have been planted, and work executed along many lines that has been recognized as of real value and importance. It is now a frequent remark in regard to any enterprise, "If the Nineteenth Century will help you, you will be sure of success."

The literary work of the club is of a very high order; it is largely made up of original papers very ably discussed. The club has developed a number of admirable speakers, whose discussions are marked by strength without the least tinge of aggressiveness, and by convincing clearness of thought.

It has been most fortunate in a list of able and charming women presidents. Mrs. Selden, Mrs. Watson, Mrs. Ensley, Mrs. Betty Allen Greer, Mrs. Richard Graves, Mrs. Farrabee, and Mrs. Brinkley, the first president, have no superiors in any of the qualities which make up the truest types of womanhood.

Mrs. Selden is now again the president of the Nineteenth Century Club. The membership has become upward of four hundred, splendidly organized for work. It can truly be said that it includes the flower of the women of Memphis, and has been the inspiration of the active, intellectual, and beautiful social life for which Memphis is conspicuous. The club-rooms are open all the time for lectures and classes and the use of members. The literary and social meetings are every Thursday from October to June. The entrance fee is two dollars, the annual dues ten dollars. Daughters of members, between



ANTEROOM TO THE HALL, NINETEENTH CENTURY CLUB OF MEMPHIS, TENN.

the ages of thirteen and eighteen, are admitted to the club without being voted upon, without the entrance fee, upon payment of half the annual dues. They are entitled to all privileges, except holding office and voting in its business affairs. Its motto is, "Influence is responsibility."

Woman's Club of Memphis.—It was on May 29, 1890, in the drawing-room of Mrs. M. J. Judah, that three ladies "over the teacups" laid the foundation of the Woman's Club of Memphis. Besides the hostess there were Mrs. J. W. Allison and Mrs. W. D. Beard. A week later a dozen more women assembled in response to invitation, to organize, adopt a constitution, and elect officers. Mrs. Judah, then recently of Indianapolis, and familiar with club work was unanimously elected president; Mrs. C. Mason, vice-president; and Mrs. Beard, chairman of the Executive Committee. The work has been done through original papers, short stories, and verses of such merit as frequently to win their way to places in standard periodicals.

So notable have been some of the sessions of the Woman's Club, that it



MRS. MARY JAMESON JUDAH,
Founder and First President of Woman's
Club of Memphis, Tenn.

has frequently been suggested the papers be gathered into annual book form for preservation. Adalyn Gale Horn has anticipated some of her brilliant published work in the papers given to "her" club.

The club has had but two presidents. The founder, Mrs. M. J. Judah, held the office six years, until her return to Indianapolis. In her removal the club sustained a serious loss. She was a student not only of books, but of methods. Miss Louise Preston Looney, a charter member, succeeded her, and has been elected to a second term. Miss Looney is experienced in many lines of organized work, but is not a theorist. She believes it better to travel in the beaten track of an assured success than to try new experiments.

The club is limited to thirty-five active and several honorary members; among the latter are Miss Alice French (Octave Thanet) and "Will Allen Drumgoole." The club furnished the retiring State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and the first president of the State Federation, Mrs. W. D. Beard. In one of her thoughtful talks Mrs. Beard remarked: "Voltaire truly said, 'The golden age is not passed, it lies before us.'" In her new departure woman justifies the words of an eminent German, "To anticipate new thoughts in the movement of the moral and intellectual world, to express them, to realize them—this is historical greatness." To the glory of American womanhood be it remembered, that in striving for this larger intellectual life, in uniting the better half of the world for social and mental advancement, we have led the way."

The constitution of the Woman's Club defines its object as "the forming of a centre for the intellectual culture of its members, and for the improvement and elevation of domestic life."

The cultivation of literary standards has been the motive in the perma-



MISS LOUISE PRESTON LOONEY,
President Woman's Club of Memphis

nent growth of the club, but through the years of its life there has grown a remarkable *esprit de corps*, a unity of purpose which is in itself a source of strength and permanent success. Conversation, which in a quiet way is tantamount to free discussion, has become one of the leading features; and still the growing life is constantly exhibiting promise of activities in larger fields when the time is ripe for their cultivation.

The Memphis Local Council of Women's Organizations.—The Local Council was the suggestion of Mrs. Carrington Mason. It started in 1893 with nineteen clubs and societies, representing almost "All for each, each for all." every department of organized work. At first the meetings were quarterly and were held at various places, but the original purpose to form a bureau of information, as well as a centre of activity, made a local habitation necessary, and the president, Mrs. C. N. Grosvenor, devised a plan for a permanent home, and thus provided for more frequent meetings and other facilities for carrying on the work. This plan was to secure pleasant, convenient quarters and invite other clubs to rent from them.

The Woman's Club, of which Mrs. Grosvenor was vice-president, was the first to respond. Other clubs and societies followed, and a central home for women's organizations was established. From its membership of nineteen clubs and societies the Local Council now represents between forty and fifty. The work is distributed under eight different departments: Art and music, church work, education, history, literature, philanthropy, temperance, and reform. On the third Tuesday of each month a department programme is rendered in such manner as to prove interesting to the audience and best secure coöperation.

On the first Tuesday of each month a miscellaneous programme is arranged by a committee appointed for the purpose. Usually a lecture is given by some representative Memphian, with music and readings by members of organizations in the council. After these entertainments, which are free to all members, informal receptions are held and frequently light refreshments served.

Since its formation the council has had but one president, Mrs. C. N. Grosvenor, who each year has been unanimously reëlected. She has been ably assisted by a representative Board of Officers.

The Local Council has established a woman's exchange, organized the Friendly Visitors, assisted the United Charities, helped the Christmas Club, coöperated with all its organizations, furnished current literature to its members, given impetus to art, brought lecturers before monopolized by larger cities, inaugurated reforms in public institutions, promulgated and promoted philanthropic enterprises, furnished a home for its societies, and all without infringing its constitution, which declares, "No society shall lose its

identity or independence or be committed to any work recommended by the council."

The colors of the Local Council are white and yellow, typifying purity and freedom.

The Authors' Club, of Memphis, was the suggestion of Mrs. Virginia F. Boyle, in March, 1894. Mrs. Boyle is the author of the Southern epic, "The Other Side," and a contributor to several leading magazines. The aim of the club was the concentration of local literary forces and the encouragement to their work resulting from concerted action. It desires to denationalize the literary movement, which has tended to establish itself in a few great cities, and stimulate the formation of local centres, particularly in the South.

Most of the literary men and women of Memphis are on its list of membership, and in addition it has associate and honorary members. The meetings are monthly, and the only officer is a secretary, Mr. Walter Malone.

TENNESSEE STATE FEDERATION

The invitation to the clubs of Tennessee to consider the subject of State federation was issued by Ossoli Circle, of Knoxville, early in 1896; and on February 13th a large number of representative club women met in the First Congregational Church to consider the question of forming such a federation, Mrs. E. J. McClung, president of Ossoli, in the chair.

Miss Mary B. Temple, an ex-president of Ossoli, and the first corresponding secretary of the General Federation, extended a cordial welcome to the delegates, and was responded to by Mrs. W. D. Beard, State Chairman of Correspondence for the General Federation. The guest of honor upon the occasion was Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, president of the General Federation, who made a strong, far-reaching address upon the philosophy of club life.

The business sessions began on Friday, February 14th, at 10 A.M., in the Ossoli club-rooms.

When State federation was first considered six clubs had expressed a willingness to unite in this progressive step, and it was felt that if seven could be reached the mystic number might insure success. It was therefore an evidence of rapid growth in the federation idea when delegates from three times that number of clubs responded to the call, among them the Memphis Local Council, represented by Miss Conway, the founder of the Clara Conway Alumnae. Mrs. Greer, of Memphis, the then president of the Nineteenth Century Club, was made permanent chairman; Mrs. C. A. Perkins, of Ossoli, secretary. The vote as to whether a State Federation should be formed was unani-

mous in its favor. A constitution and by-laws, submitted by Mrs. C. E. McTeer, chairman of the Committee on Constitution, was discussed and finally adopted. The literary part of the programme consisted of a thoughtful paper, by Mrs. J. M. Greer, upon the "Most Beneficial Aims of Club Life." Mrs. W. B. Romine followed with "Woman's Place in Journalism;" Mrs. L. C. French, "Social Economics;" Mrs. Helen Millington, "The Home of the Future." The most striking paper of the session was that of Miss Conway, who took for her theme, "How Old is the New Woman? And What is her Father's Business?"



MRS. WM. D. BEARD,
President Tennessee State Federation



MRS. E. O. THORNDYKE,
Corresponding Secretary Tennessee State Federation

A brilliant reception was given in the evening in the Ossoli club-rooms, which were decorated with white roses and palms. The club colors, lavender and white, were carried out in white roses and violets, wax candles and lavender ribbons, in the decorations of the tables. The election resulted in the choice of president, Mrs. W. D. Beard, Memphis; vice-president, Mrs. J. G. Richardson, Chattanooga; recording secretary, Mrs. C. A. Perkins, Knoxville; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. O. Thorndyke, Harriman; treasurer, Mrs. Burger, Maryville; auditor, Mrs. W. B. Romine, Pulaski. The State was declared federated, and the president earnestly urged an early union with the General Federation.

Resolutions of thanks were voted to Ossoli Circle as hostess of the State meeting, to the Congregational Church for the use of its comfortable audience room, to Mrs. Henrotin for her helpful and inspiring presence, to Mrs. Greer for her wise and just ruling as presiding officer, and to all who gave the encouragement of their presence.

The social courtesies incident to the convention were a charming feature. Mrs. C. J. McClung entertained with a luncheon, complimentary to Mrs. Henrotin and the officials of General and State work. Miss Temple closed the convention with a brilliant reception given in compliment to the Daughters of the American Revolution and Mrs. Henrotin. Judge Temple's home is one of the historic places of Knoxville, replete with interest, and of famed hospitality. So closed two memorable days.

The most important work of the State Federation for 1897 was in connection with the "Women's Convocations," held in Nashville during the Tennessee Centennial Exposition. The committee having the convocations in charge consisted of Miss Clara Conway, chairman; Mrs. W. D. Beard, the State president; Mrs. J. H. Eakin, and Mrs. R. F. Weakley, of Nashville; Mrs. Walter Farabee, Memphis; Mrs. G. E. Pervis, Chattanooga; Miss M. B. Temple, Knoxville. This committee issued the following letter:

"TO THE WOMEN OF AMERICA, GREETING:

"Interdependence has a larger meaning than independence. In recognition of a general community of interests, the women of Tennessee are preparing convocations for the presentation and discussion of interests vital to the womanhood of the world. Help us in this great work, dear friends, and be sure in advance that we mean success. To that end we pledge ourselves, personally and officially. The sessions will be held every morning from ten to twelve o'clock. Papers will be limited to thirty minutes, and speakers in discussions to five minutes. The chairman of each convocation will prepare her own programme, and preside at her own sessions, with the assurance of the active coöperation of the Woman's Board of the Tennessee Centennial Exposition."



MRS. C. A. PERKINS,
Recording Secretary Tennessee State Federation

Of the Tennessee Federation, at the close of these convocations the president writes:

"The State organization is to-day an active, practical influence, reaching through its twenty-seven clubs from end to end of the State. The

individual membership is twenty-five hundred women. The work is upon educational lines, travelling libraries, university extension, and a reciprocity bureau being the present objects and mediums. Emerson said, 'Nature arms each man with some faculty which enables him to do easily something impossible to any other.'

"The Tennessee Federation believes that through educational work can the greatest good be done to the greatest number, and to it each club is pledged.

"The Federation itself pledges united influence to promote the welfare of the public schools, to improve the character of the work done in schools, to develop the ability of its individual members, and to create in the whole commonwealth a greater demand for trained teachers.

"The educational department, through its chairman, Lucy Graham Crozier, advocates industrial education for girls, as well as boys, and has issued a circular to local clubs inviting their coöperation.

"The Federation recommends the introduction of manual training into the public schools, and is moving to have a bill passed by the next Legislature to provide an appropriation for this purpose."

Through the generosity of the Woman's Centennial Board the Committee on Convocations was enabled to bring to the State Federation sessions many distinguished specialists in manual training and library work.

Mrs. D. M. Steward, chairman of the Federation Library Committee, is in thorough touch with each of the local clubs, and the extension and development of the library system is employing the best thought of the State, and will result undoubtedly in better library laws at the next session of the Assembly. To a limited extent the State Federation is doing for Tennessee what the State Library at Albany does for the study-clubs in New York State, and others in which travelling libraries have been established. Three of these libraries have been loaned to the State Federation for one year from three different clubs "for circulation where they would do the most good."

The first of these to volunteer was the Ossoli Circle, at Knoxville; the second the Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, at Knoxville; and the third the Tuesday Club, of Maryville. These libraries will go into the mountain fastnesses of East Tennessee districts not yet reached by clubs.

The State Federation joined the General Federation in April, 1896, six weeks after its organization.

The first annual meeting was held February 14, 1897, at Memphis, by invitation of the Nineteenth Century Club. The convention was a brilliant success. A marked feature is the practical character of the work, to the exclusion of display in merely entertaining, and spectacular features and programmes.

The creed of the Tennessee Federation is: "There can be no happy life without strenuous, unremitting work—work which occupies body, mind, and soul. No man can do anything well who does not think that what he does is the centre of the visible universe."

The second annual meeting was held February 2, 3, and 4, 1898, at Chatta-

nooga, by invitation of the Kosmos and Woman's Clubs. Mrs. L. D. Eakin, of the Woman's Club, made the address of welcome, to which the State president responded.

The reports of secretaries and treasurer were followed by three-minute reports of clubs, which closed the morning session.

The afternoon was given to the work of the Chattanooga Industrial School, by Miss Noa; "Domestic Science," by Miss Toner, of the University of Tennessee; "Philosophy of the Kindergarten," Mrs. J. S. Menkin; "Knoxville's Free Kindergarten," Miss Woodruff.

In the evening a charming reception was given by the hostess clubs at the residence of Mrs. D. M. Steward.

Thursday morning was occupied by reports from the chairmen of standing committees—"Education," Miss L. G. Crozier, Knoxville; "Travelling Libraries," Mrs. D. M. Steward, Chattanooga; "Reciprocity," Mrs. R. C. Graves, Memphis; "University Extension," Miss E. Erb, Memphis; "Household Economics," Miss M. B. Temple, Knoxville.

There was also an address by Mrs. C. E. McTeer, State chairman of correspondence.

A symposium in the afternoon was upon the following subject: "Is Federation a Factor in the Educational Work of the State?" This included a paper upon the "County Schools," by Mrs. Follet, of Maryville, and "Travelling Libraries," by Miss Arnell, of Johnson City, both followed by free discussion.

There was a large gathering in the evening of men as well as women to listen to an address upon "The New Movement in Education," by Mrs. W. Kennedy, of Memphis, and an address by Mr. W. Rose, of the Peabody Normal Institute. Fine music was a feature of the exercises.

Friday morning was given to the consideration of the report of the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, the election of officers and of delegates to the biennial of the General Federation at Denver.

In the afternoon Miss Crozier presided over a discussion of the "Educational Needs of Tennessee."

The report of the Committee on Resolutions and greetings to the officers closed a most interesting series of exercises.

The Federation has adopted "Unity of purpose" as its motto.

The officers are: President, Mrs. W. D. Beard, Memphis; vice-president, Mrs. J. G. Richardson, Chattanooga; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. O. Thorndyke, Harriman; recording secretary, Mrs. C. A. Perkins, Knoxville; treasurer, Mrs. Joseph Burger, Maryville; auditor, Mrs. H. B. Romine, Pulaski.

The latest movement is an association formed by the women of Knox-

ville for the purpose of returning and reërecting the Knoxville Centennial Building at Nashville on a lot furnished by the County Court to be used as a permanent home for women's clubs, the lower floor for a permanent exhibit of the resources of Knox County. This building will fill a long-felt and pressing need, and the pride and pleasure of club women in the realization of a long-cherished desire.

The following is the list of clubs composing the State Federation: Local Council, Memphis; Nineteenth Century Club, Memphis; Woman's Club, Memphis; Council of Jewish Women, Memphis; Shakesperean Circle, Memphis; Talkitanti Club, Memphis; Germania, Memphis; Ossoli Circle, Knoxville; Woman's Educational and Industrial Union, Knoxville; Local Club N. H. S., Knoxville, Woman's Club, Chattanooga; Kosmos Club, Chattanooga; Ladies' Reading Circle, Morristown; Soma-Sala Club, Morristown; Tuesday Club, Maryville; Chilhowee Club, Maryville; Magazine Club, Pulaski; Woman's Club, Cleveland; Monday Club, Johnson City; Woman's Literary Club, Harriman; Centennial Club, Ripley.

Texas

TEXAS FEDERATION OF WOMEN'S CLUBS

THE first suggestion to organize and unify the women's clubs of Texas came from the Wednesday Club, of Fort Worth, one of the early clubs of the State.

After consideration and some consultation it was found that the needed coöperation could not then be obtained ; the action was considered premature, and the idea was temporarily abandoned.

In April, 1897, the Woman's Club, of Waco, sent out invitations to all women's clubs of which it could gain any knowledge, inviting them to send delegates to a general convention, to be held in Waco on the 13th and 14th of May, for the purpose of forming a State Federation of Women's Literary Clubs.

Following this circular letter were personal letters from every member of the Waco Committee to personal friends throughout the State, asking each one to become a committee of invitation in her own person, and thus obtain the coöperation of literary clubs within her own knowledge. This earnest and united effort found an instant and hearty response.

On the 13th of May a fine body of women met in the Assembly Room of the Philo Literary Club, eager to assist in launching the new enterprise. There were accredited delegates from nineteen women's clubs of the State and many interested visitors.

The president of the Woman's Club, of Waco, who is a Vassar graduate and full of the enthusiasm of organization, made the opening address and inspired every one with her own zeal and faith in the benefits likely to result from organized work.

The routine business of the convention was quickly dispatched. Pending the reports of credentials and nominating committees brief statements were made from the representatives of the various clubs, describing their methods and plans of work. Many of these were oral and made by women who had not before addressed an audience outside their own club. All were most interesting as showing methods varied by circumstance and environment, but

inspired by the one desire—for enlargement of the mental horizon and higher ideals of life.

A paper which struck the keynote of the convention was by Mrs. George K. Meyer, of the Pierian Club, of Dallas, on the "Benefits of Federation."

The work of the first day closed with the reports of committees, the election of officers, and appointment of a committee to formulate constitution and by-laws.

The officers elected were: President, Mrs. Kate S. Rotan, of Waco; vice-president, Mrs. J. C. Terrell, of Fort Worth; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. D. Thomas, of Waco; recording secretary, Mrs. G. K. Meyer, of Dallas; treasurer, Mrs. J. F. Rosborough, of Corsicana.

On the morning of May 14th, a constitution and by-laws were adopted, permanent committees appointed, and an Executive Board named. The secretary read a letter of greetings and congratulations from Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin. The letter was couched in terms of the warmest interest, and expressed a hearty desire to see Texas represented at the coming biennial convention in Denver.

A thoughtful paper was by Mrs. W. A. Adams, of Fort Worth, upon the "Literary Advantages of State Federation."

The social features of this first gathering of Texas club-women were an evening reception and a luncheon which afforded opportunity for the renewal of old, and the establishment of new, friendships. Free interchange of thought and opinion served but to strengthen and confirm the belief that this new union will accomplish much good. The convention adjourned to meet at Tyler in May, 1898.

"This first year of our work," writes the president, "will be missionary work in many ways. There are so many small clubs in the very small towns of this new country that are struggling to know how to study, how to enlarge their lives, and how to grow stronger for their various duties in life. To many women in this comparatively new State an afternoon in a club-room, some study of books, some instruction in household economics, some touch with the progressive spirit that pervades the older and more advanced communities, means renewed spirit, a larger energy, and a determination to make their home-



MRS. KATE S. ROTAN.
President Texas State Federation

lives better, to instruct their children differently, and to carry higher ideals into all their duties."

The following clubs were indorsed as charter members of the Texas State Federation: Woman's Club, Waco; Standard Club, Dallas; Pierian Club, Dallas; Shakespeare Club, Dallas; Current Events Club, Dallas; Woman's Club, Houston; Ladies' Reading Club, Houston; Woman's Wednesday Club,



HOME OF MRS. ROTAN, TEXAS

Fort Worth; American History Club, Austin; Social Science Club, Terrell; Magazine Club, Cleburne; Quid Nunc, Tyler; Nineteenth Century Club, Corsicana; Wednesday Club, Galveston; Ariel Club, Denton; Owl Club, McKinney; Literary Club, Waco.

The mid-year meeting of the State Board was held at Dallas in the first week of November. It was largely social, but brought together most of the officers and many club members who had begun to feel the influence of relationship and knowledge of each other in their club-work.

Facilities for business were well provided by the forethought of the Dallas local committee, who also arranged the pleasant social features. The Shakes-

peare Club was the hostess of the occasion, assisted by other women's clubs of Dallas.

The address of welcome by its president, Mrs. Henry Exall, was noteworthy. She said in part: "The Dallas Shakespeare Club, as one of the oldest literary clubs in the State, rejoices to-day to be the happy cause of the gathering together of this fair assembly, made up as it is of representative club women from many parts of our State, and club women of whom we may be justly proud. We are glad to have this opportunity to come into closer touch with the Executive Board of our State Federation, and last, though not least, with our sister clubs of Dallas.

"When the Shakespeare Club was organized in Dallas in January, 1886, there was no literary club of any kind whatever in our city, and very few in the State. Our Texas clubs are just beginning to aspire to that higher plane of club life where the desire for self-culture and the enjoyment of the individual are not the only aims, but where associated with these is a spirit of altruism, a desire to promote the welfare of humanity, to better the communities in which we live, and to advance in every way possible the noblest ideals of womanhood.

"This tendency will be greatly strengthened and developed by our State Federation, which bids fair to accomplish great results and to be of inestimable value to the clubs of Texas.

"The Shakespeare, though made up of women living in an age when novelty is the demand of the day, has yet been modestly content during the almost twelve years of its existence to pursue an even tenor of way, constant to the one purpose which from the first has inspired our being—the thoughtful, thorough study and interpretation of those great masterpieces which have come down to the English-speaking people as the richest legacy a nation can receive."

Though this was only a board meeting, it was notable for the clever arrangement of a short programme, the excellence of the addresses, and the celerity with which the business was transacted.

A witty and original paper was contributed by Mrs. Lauch McLauran upon "The Woman whom Shakespeare Missed," while the impromptu addresses exhibited a freedom and breadth that were in themselves evidence of the value of the work in local clubs.

One of the features of the entertainment given by the Shakespeare Club was the beauty of the printed programme. It was lettered in gold and tied with the club colors, purple and gold.

A luncheon to the board was given by the Pierian Club at the home of Mrs. George K. Meyer, the recording secretary of the Federation.

Fifteen additional clubs were admitted to membership, and the annual

meeting was settled to take place in the last week of April, 1898, instead of May.

The clubs admitted were: The XXI Club, of Abilene; The Texas Woman's Press Club, of Waco; The Quaero Club, of Oak Cliff; The F. A. D. Club, of Georgetown; The Irving Club, of Lockhart; San Marcos Sorosis; The Up-to-Date Club, of Colorado City; Yamparica, of Vernon; The First Literary Club, of Tyler; The Shakespeare Club, of Cleburne; The Twentieth Century Club, of Tyler; The History Club, of San Antonio; The Athenian Circle, of Tyler; The Shakespeare Club, of Tyler; The Shakespeare Club, of Waxahachie.

The Quid Nunc Club, of Tyler, is the oldest literary club in east Texas. It was organized May, 1886, and has held its weekly meetings regularly during the eleven years. The motto is, "*Keep your eyes on the stars, but don't forget to light the candles by the way.*"

In striving after mental culture the members have kept constantly in mind the beauty of the woman's life of home-loving and home-keeping, believing with Longfellow that "home-keeping hearts are happiest." Still it was eagerly ready for the liberalizing effect of contact and a broader unity, and became a charter member of the Texas State Federation, to which it sent its president, Mrs. S. Warner. It was at her invitation that the Federation selected Tyler as the place for its second annual meeting, in 1898.

A valuable feature of the club is the book collection. Every year each member has the privilege of ordering books of her own selection. These volumes are kept by the librarian, with rules and regulations governing the distribution.

An interesting and original custom of the club is the entertainment given once a month to the husbands of the members. This usually begins with a seven-o'clock dinner and closes with a discussion of some question in which all can take part.

The work of 1896-97 was given to English men of letters, Taine's "English Literature" and Green's "Short History of the English People" forming the principal text-books. Roll-call is answered by quotations from the authors or subjects studied. The year 1898 will be given to American literature and the development of the American college.

Dallas Shakespeare Club is one of the oldest literary organizations in the State, and does fine work. It was organized in 1886. Has forty-five regular and nine honorary members. Its studies are still "*Non sans droit.*" Shakespearean, and its method would serve as model for many clubs of the name of more pretensions.

A study of a play occupies six months. It is taken act by act, scene by scene. The following are some of the questions in connection with "Love's Labor Lost" that have to be answered by the members of the club:

"How old was Shakespeare when this play was written?"

"Why is it considered his earliest play?"

"What works of his had previously appeared?"

"When did Shakespeare's name first appear on the title-page of a play?"

"Was this play printed during the poet's lifetime?"

"What is meant by the 'Quartos' and 'Folios'?"

"What is the 'First Folio,' and what entitles it to be considered one of the most valuable works in the whole range of English literature?"

"Was the plot of this play original with Shakespeare?"

"Mention some of the books with which Shakespeare shows himself familiar."

"Is there in 'Love's Labor Lost,' as in all other plays of Shakespeare, a gradually increasing dramatic interest?"

"Is the climax satisfactory? Does the play seem to need a sequel? What 'lost play' of Shakespeare's bears a title that would suggest it might have been intended for a sequel to 'Love's Labor Lost'?"

"What is the most dramatic situation in the play? The most humorous scene? The best acting scene of Holofernes? The most characteristic speech of Don Armado?"

"What character in the play may be taken as a prototype of the precocious infant of to-day? Mention some of his cleverest speeches."

"In the name of what character in 'Love's Labor Lost' is there, possibly, an allusion to a glorious episode in English history which may have tended to make the play popular?"

"Mention the principal characters."

"What characters in Shakespeare's later comedies are foreshadowed by Armado and Constable Dull?"

A study of Tennyson's "Princess" followed that of "Love's Labor Lost," because the plot of the one has been said to have been suggested by the other. This study ended with a discussion of the following question, "The perfect independence of woman—its effects—is it to be desired?"

The following have been among the studies apart from Shakespeare's plays: "Origin of the Drama;" "Origin of Tragedy;" "The Most Famous Writers of Greek Tragedy;" "Origin of Comedy;" "Noted Writers of Comedy Among the Greeks;" "The Dawn of the Early Drama in England;" "Miracle-plays, Interludes, and Moralities;" "Reading—Selections from the Early Miracle-plays;" "What Noted Instance of a Survival of the Miracle-plays is Still Extant?"

"The Influence of the Greek Drama on the Elizabethan Dramatists;" "The Drama of the Present Day—Its Tendencies and Characteristics;" "The Greatest Modern Dramatists;" "The Drama and the State."

The meetings are held weekly, and the most important social event of the season is the celebration of Shakespeare's birthday on April 22d. The officers are: President, Mrs. H. Exall; vice-president, Mrs. J. T. Murphy; secretaries, Mrs. W. Spence, Mrs. L. Dabney; treasurer, Miss Anne Atkins.

Club issues a fine year-book, with complete synopsis of the work of the year. The motto of the club is "*Non sans droit.*"

Wednesday Club, of Fort Worth, dates from February, 1889. Previous to this time there was no woman's club, according to the modern idea, in Fort Worth. The founder, and the woman who gave it its strongest impulse, was Mrs. John F. Swayne, who became its first president. This position she filled with ability for four years. The object of the club is to promote interest in literature, stimulate intellectual growth, and strengthen individual effort among its members. The membership is composed exclusively of married women. For several years the limit was twenty, but it has been extended to fifty, and includes some of the most cultivated and scholarly women in the community.

The first meetings were held in the parlors of the members, but rapid growth soon demanded more space. The new quarters include two large rooms, divided by a broad arch. The club owns its furniture, consisting of massive oak book-cases, filled with seven hundred volumes of valuable works. The management is vested in five directors, who also arrange the programmes. The work done by the club is comprehensive and critical. The first part of 1896-97 was devoted to a study of Macaulay—poet, historian, and essayist, including the following leading topics: Life of Lord Macaulay; "Lays of Ancient Rome;" The Man and the Poet; Condition of England in 1688; England under James II; The Trial of Bishops; England under William and Mary; John Churchill, Duke of Marlborough; Macaulay's Speeches; The Historian; Essay on Milton; Sir William Temple; Essay on Lord Bacon; Macchiavelli; Hallam's "Constitutional History;" William Pitt, Earl of Chatham; The Essayist; Life and Writings of Addison; Macaulay's Permanent Place in Literature.

This was followed by a study of the poets and poetry of the nineteenth century, with Tennyson as the central figure and the Brownings to close the work.

The annual meeting is the only one devoted to social pleasure. The club is the meeting-ground for the best thought and culture of Fort Worth, and the most astonishing success has attended its efforts to elevate the appreciation of intellectual excellence in the best circles.

The Wednesday Club took the initiative in the invitation to form a State Federation, and can always be relied upon for aid and sympathy in whatever tends to advance the highest interests of women and the community.

The presidents have been: Mrs. John F. Swayne, Mrs. W. L. Lathrop, Mrs. J. C. Terrell, Mrs. W. A. Adams, Mrs. B. C. Evans.

XXI Club, of Denison, was organized in 1890, and has grown from its early small beginning to an important organization. It owns its own club-house, and has the nucleus of a library in eight hundred well-selected volumes.



CLUB-HOUSE, XXI CLUB, DENISON, TEX.

The founder of the club was Miss Edith Menefee. Its purpose was that of literary study for social culture and improvement, and it has pursued its work with a quiet steadfastness that commanded respect during the seven years of its existence.

The charter of the XXI Club gave as the purpose "the support of a literary and scientific undertaking and the maintenance of a library, such purpose and undertaking being more particularly described as the supporting and conducting of a society for the literary and scientific and general culture of its members and the acquiring and owning a library and such other property, real and personal, as may be necessary and proper for carrying on the said purposes."

The XXI Club was the first in the State to affiliate with the General Federation. The Board of Directors consists of the officers of the club, and these appoint the standing committees on membership, library, and the like.

The work was formerly done by topics assigned to each day and for several years consisted of representative authors taken from the world of literature. Each subject was assigned to three or more members of the club, who arranged the papers and divided the work. The method has not greatly changed, but it has broadened.

There is now a Programme Committee, that selects, classifies, and arranges



MISS EDITH MCNEFER,
Founder of XXI Club, Denison, Tex.



MRS. LILY B. HATHAWAY,
President XXI Club, Denison, Tex.

the work for the year. There are "open" sessions, "children's" days, and one evening meeting during the year.

The president (1897) is Mrs. M. E. Munson; vice-president, Mrs. C. L. Platter; recording secretary, Miss Martha Foster; the Federation secretary, Mrs. W. H. Cobb; librarian, Mrs. Bostwick.

The membership limit is fifty-one. The club color is pink; it has no motto. Its meetings are weekly, and its entrance fee five dollars. The annual dues are three dollars.

The XLI Club, of Gainesville, was organized January 30, 1894, at a meeting called by two ladies—Mrs. H. B. Leeper and Mattie Hill. An organization was perfected later by the election of Mrs. L. K. Hemming as president, Mrs. B. G. Stevens, vice-president, two secretaries, treasurer, and critic. On

February 3, 1894, a constitution was adopted, and by February 10th the club was in working order, and had decided upon a systematic study of American authors as its first work and the heliotrope as its emblematic flower. The motto selected

*"Turning toward
the light."*

was indicative of the mental attitude of the club: "Turning toward the light."

The summer vacation of several months was anticipated with a little anxiety by those who had the club interests at heart. But when September arrived it was found that that interest had in nowise decreased. The members came together with added zest and enthusiasm, and the course of work planned steadily adhered to.

Up to December, 1894, the meetings were held in the parlors of the Young Men's Christian Association. Before the new year the club had taken pos-



CLUB-ROOM, XXI CLUB, DENISON, TEX.

session of a pleasant, well-furnished room, generously offered as a club-home by Mr. C. C. Hemming. Here it laid the foundation, from the fund acquired by yearly dues, of a library that will grow into larger proportions as the state of the treasury permits.

At the beginning of the second year the study was changed to English literature, beginning with Chaucer, and taking the best that the rich storehouse could supply.

The plan was adopted of responding to roll-call by quotations from the author under consideration. At each meeting ten questions are dictated by the member who is to be the leader of the following meeting, and to these questions every member, or as many as possible, are expected to bring responses. A paper on "Current Events" closes the work of every meeting.

"The pleasure," writes the historian, "derived from becoming a living part of the splendid imagery evoked by the poets, the great events of historians, and the dramatic development which culminated in Shakespeare cannot



MRS. NETTIE BENNETT LEEPER,
Founder of the XLI Club, Gainesville, Tex.

be put into words. Much has been accomplished by tireless patience and perseverance, yet we realize that our feet have touched only the border-land—we are merely 'children gathering pebbles on a boundless shore.' Caramels and fashion books have lost their power to charm. More inviting fields lie spread out before us—the garden of Hesperides itself, with its golden apples ready for the plucking. Rotation in office has been the general policy of our club. But we have ignored it in the case of the president, Mrs. Hemming, and the vice-president, Mrs. Stevens, who are serving (1897) their third term."

The corresponding secretary is Mary J. Cox; the recording secretary, Mrs. G. Lockhard.

The entrance fee is two dollars; annual dues, one dollar.

The meetings are weekly from October to May, and the membership limited to forty-one.

The American History Club, of Austin, was founded in 1893, by Mrs. B. N. Taylor, assisted by Mrs. D. F. Arthur. Mrs. Taylor was the first president, and the study of American history, and, incidentally, American literature, the special object of the organization. The methods proposed were thorough, and every member was expected to participate in preparing papers and the discussion of such subjects as naturally grew out of the direct line of work.

The programmes were prepared in advance by three members, and have covered the discovery and colonization period of American history and the causes of rebellion.

The past year has brought the work up through the War of Independence to the present time.

The meetings are held fortnightly at the home of a member who was the third president, Mrs. V. O. King, succeeding the founder.

The fourth year Mrs. Arthur was made president, and the present year (1897) Mrs. T. F. Mitchell is the presiding officer. The membership is fifteen, and all are faithful workers. Mrs. Mitchell has long been a student and lover of art and music, and will doubtless identify The American History Club more prominently with these interests.

The Athenean Circle, of Tyler, also studies American history, following the line less closely, however, than the American History Club, of Austin, and taking many subjects of ethical interest that have been suggested by the work. The development of religious toleration, for example, and the intolerance with which all progressive movements have had to contend have furnished much food for work and thought. Current topics have played an important part in this club during the year, and a parliamentary drill at regular intervals has developed order and more systematic methods.

Mrs. M. H. Judge represented the Athenean Circle at the State Federation.

The Twentieth Century Club, of Tyler, studies history in a comparative way. In studying the different periods of United States history it takes contemporary conditions in Spain, Italy, Portugal, and Turkey. It has studied the lives of the discoverers of America, of the great Spanish personages of the period, and the influence upon contemporary history. The club has parliamentary drills and frequent discussions of current literature as well as current events.

The meetings are weekly; the membership twenty-five; the interest great and growing.

The Social Science Club, of Terrell, was founded in May, 1894. Its name was derived from The Social Science Club of Kansas and western Missouri, of which one of its members had been a part and, therefore, had nothing to do with its aim or purpose. *"She acquires strength in her progress."*

It was formed "for the purpose of encouraging the members to study, further their desire for self-culture, promote an interest in the best literary work of the day, and consider and discuss subjects of a general interest, whether literary, social, or educational." The club adopted the Kansas State Social Science Federation's suggestive course of study for its first and second year, embracing American archæology, history, and American art and literature from the colonial days to the present time.

This year the club is enjoying the Victorian age of literature and history, while every third meeting is given to the study of current literature.

The club has rented and furnished club-rooms, and is forming a library. The nucleus was furnished by a "Book" tea.

The club colors are orange and white, its flower the pansy, and its motto, "She acquires strength in her progress."

Standard Reading Club, of Ennis, was organized in 1896. It arranged its work for the study of Shakespeare at one meeting of each month. At the second there is discussion of current events; the third is given to history, and the fourth to some American author. When a fifth occurs it is used for social entertainment. Although the study has not as yet become systematic,

it has been found stimulating. Current events demand the reading of late papers and magazines; the study of foreign countries, the brushing up of old geography and history; and the social afternoons, a new interest in the arts of good reading and music.

The membership is eighteen women, and each one contributes five cents per month toward a fund for the beginning of a library.

The officers are: Mrs. Boggs, president; Mrs. Chancey, vice-president; Mrs. Alvis, secretary and treasurer.

There are many small circles throughout Texas for reading and study, some of which began with the Chautauqua course; and others for the study of Shakespeare, and English and American history and literature.

The Self-Culture Club, of Palestine, is not by any means confined to the self-culture that its name indicates.

Its topics for the year have embraced such subjects as: "What May We as a Club Do to Improve Palestine?" "The Poor Children of Palestine;" "Does Caste Exist in American Society?" "Texas Laws Concerning Women;" "Should Children be Forced to Do Sunday Duty?" "Furnishing a Home on a Liberal Scale—on an Economical Scale;" "Which Makes the Better Club Woman, the Woman of Affairs or the Woman of Leisure?" "Woman's Duty to Other Women;" "Shall We Try to Read Books We Do Not Like?" "How to Improve a Sallow Complexion and a Listless Carriage."

The club is prosperous as well as up to date. It publishes an artistic calendar outlining the year's work, and is said to handle its subjects fearlessly, though with due regard to courtesy and order.

The Elizabethean Club, of Tyler, only dates from October, 1897. It is a club of young women who decided to begin a systematic course of English and American literature, the course of instruction to be arranged by a committee of two, who furnish a plan of work in advance for every three months. The meetings are held every Tuesday afternoon at the homes of members. The flower chosen is the rose, emblematic of love. "Love, I say," with Browning, "is energy of life." Colors, purple and red.

*"There is a future which
is still our own."*

"And he gathers the prayers as he stands,
And they change into flowers in his hands,
Into garlands of purple and red."

The officers are: Miss Douglas, president; Miss Grinnan, vice-president; Miss Fielder, critic; Miss Taylor, secretary and treasurer. The club is still in its infancy, but appreciates the beauty and the promise contained in the words: "There is a future which is still our own."

A Texas club woman writes: "The gradual enlargement of the scope of

subjects embraced in the programmes of clubs throughout the country, the relation of many of the subjects to the vital issues of life, reveal the fact that beneath the current of this apparently shallow stream of literary culture flows the steady, resistless sweep of great moral forces, operating through the channel most potent, least appreciated, the home.

"If education is worth anything, in any department in life, surely it will bear its best fruits in that most vital of all institutions—the home. The educational advantages afforded by a good study club must be apparent to the most superficial observer. If quickened sympathies, broadened conceptions enhance a woman's value; if a realization of the value of spare moments, and the relative importance of the essential and non-essential things of life be serviceable, then will study clubs enrich the character and deepen the channels of usefulness for women."

The Twentieth Century Club, of Tyler, has started a magazine as a club organ called *The Club Monthly*, edited by the Tyler Twentieth Century Club through its representative, Mrs. R. H. Brown. The corresponding editor is Mrs. R. L. Phillips.

Utah

The Ladies' Literary Club, of Salt Lake City, was organized in 1877. It was the first in Utah, and one of the first in the far West. It is, perhaps, owing to this circumstance and other conditions of its environment that it has been more conservative and of slower growth than some of the more modern ones in other far Western States. But it ranks second to none in the



LADIES' LITERARY CLUB, OF SALT LAKE CITY, UTAH

MRS. ELIZA K. ROYLE, a Founder

MRS. OLIVE S. Y. DART, Representative Member

MRS. EURITHE K. LA BARTHE, President

character of its work and the intelligence of its members, and takes the lead among the women's clubs of Utah in numbers, in active service, and in influence, as well as in age.

It was incorporated in 1882, and joined the General Federation in 1892. It still maintains its membership with that body, and was instrumental in the formation of the Utah State Federation.

The only one of the "founders" now remaining in the membership of one hundred women is Mrs. E. K. Royle, a woman of fine judgment and character, and an experience that was of the utmost value in the formative period of the club's life. Another member who has exercised a strong influence by her scholarly ability and devotion to the interests of the club is Mrs. Olive S. Y. Dart. She has been connected with it for many years, and always in active service.

The work of the club has been of a miscellaneous character, but always representative of English or American literature, history, and art. Current events occupy one meeting in the month, and this is occasionally a lecture on some subject connected with the work, to which a larger public is invited.

Its officers are a president, vice-president, secretaries, treasurer, critic, and librarian.

The president in 1893 and 1894 was Mrs. Fabian; in 1895, Mrs. Rose Whitenam; in 1896, Mrs. Corinne M. Allen; in 1897, Mrs. E. K. La Barthe. Mrs. La Barthe is a comparatively recent member. Previous to 1892 her home was in Colorado, but she was soon recognized as a woman of great executive ability, and in 1896 was elected a member of the State Legislature in Utah.

The officers, besides Mrs. La Barthe, are: Vice-president, Mrs. S. O. S. Neldon; recording secretary, Miss Ethel Paul; corresponding secretary, Mrs. J. E. Mathis; treasurer, Mrs. M. W. Critchlow; critic, Mrs. M. B. Jennings; librarian, Mrs. L. Wantland; historian, Mrs. E. K. Royle.

Eight committees are now represented on the programme—Art, Current Events and Literature, Entertainment, History, Library, Music, Shakespeare, Tourist.

In history the work this year (1897) is drawn from the United States, from 1830 to 1876; in literature, Shakespeare and the early dramatists; in travel, the British Isles; and in art, Gothic architecture.

There is a "President's Day" to close the year in January, and an annual election in May, when the club adjourns to meet again in September.

The Woman's Press Club, of Utah, organized 1891, consists of forty women, twenty of them active workers. Its papers are original, but mainly historical, or derived from some suggestive branch of history, as biography, or the political relations growing out of geographical contiguity. Interesting papers have been given on the "Pilgrim Women of the Northwest;" upon

"Hawaii," the "Cuban Struggle," and the "Social Life of the Nation's Capital."

The club has entertained Miss Beecher, and given a testimonial reception to Mrs. Emmeline B. Wells, one of the earliest most representative journalists of Utah, and the editor of the *Woman's Exponent*. The Press Club colors are heliotrope and Nile green. It meets on the last evening of each month, and its president is Mrs. Ruth M. Fox; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. F. Wilcox.



MRS. EMMELINE B. WELLS,
Ex-President Woman's Press Club, Editor
Woman's Exponent

The Woman's Club was founded in 1892. Its studies have been drawn from American sources, State, municipal, and federal. Studies have also been made of American statesmen, and the different forms of State and municipal government. Current events occupy time at every meeting.

The membership is twenty, and the meetings are weekly, on Tuesday afternoon. The president is Mrs. Lily R. Pardee; corresponding secretary, Mrs. C. H. Dayton.

The Cleofan, organized in 1892, has a membership of over thirty. It is studying the history of London, and the famous epics of the Middle

Ages. Its colors are white and gold. Its meetings are held weekly, and its president is Mrs. M. J. Farlow; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Alice D. Moyle.

The Reapers' Club also dates from 1892. The membership is forty-five, and the president is elected at every meeting by alphabetical rotation from the members of the club. The corresponding secretary and the treasurer are permanent officers. The course of study is partly miscellaneous, but the general subject for the present year (1897) is Political Science, with a report at every meeting upon current events.

The Authors' Club was founded in 1893. It was formed for the study of authors, Carlyle occupying this year (1897). Its membership consists of fifteen women, who meet weekly



MRS. LILY R. PARDEE,
President Woman's Club, Salt Lake City, Utah

on Wednesday mornings. The president is Mrs. J. K. Hardy; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Crismon.

The Reviewers' Club, formed in 1896, was for the study and discussion of current literature. Its color is pink; and flower, the striped pink and white carnation. It meets on alternate Monday afternoons.

Ogden has two clubs: **La Coterie**, organized in 1890 for the study of history and allied subjects. It has twenty members, and meets on alternate Tuesdays. Its decorative colors are pink and cream. Its president is Mrs. Bannister; its corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. B. Graham.

The Aglala was organized in 1893. It has studied the history of the drama, its different schools and national development. Its colors are violet and white, and it meets fortnightly. Its president is Mrs. C. E. Coulter, and its corresponding secretary Mrs. J. F. Marshall. The membership is twenty.

The Nineteenth Century Club, of Provo, dates from 1891. Its work has been miscellaneous, but has taken special direction in the line of Italian history and art. It also devotes attention to parliamentary law. This club was honored by a visit from the State president during the year, and has exercised hospitality toward other clubs. Its meetings are weekly, and its president is Mrs. L. H. Coray; secretary, Miss Pemberton.

Springville has a **Woman's Club** organized in 1893. It has a membership of fourteen, and has discussed miscellaneous subjects. Its colors are pink and green, and its president is Mrs. H. M. Dougall; corresponding secretary, Miss Margaret Nelson.

The Inquirer's Club was organized in October, 1896, and joined the Utah State Federation the following January. It has twenty members.

Its topics have been derived from American and English history, and frequently from magazine articles or books which, after being reviewed, are made the subject of general discussion.

A special feature has been a systematic study of the Bible. Programmes for the year are now placed in the hands of a committee, and the work is more systematized. Education has an important place among the topics, and library work in the interest of the community is in the hands of a special committee.

The S. B. L., of Coalville, was organized March 13, 1896. Its membership is limited to fifteen women, with an equal number of honorary members, who are the husbands of the active members. Its course of study has been the history of England from the conquest of Britain by the Romans to the reign of Queen Mary, biography of Sir Walter Scott, with *Ivanhoe*, *The Talisman*, and selections from *The Abbot*; also other biographies of literary men and women, with selections from their works. Current topics are discussed, and original addresses, literary and scientific, have made the meetings both

interesting and instructive. One meeting in the month, the fourth Wednesday, is held in the evening, when the honorary members are present and take part in the programme.

Utah Sorosis, of Provo, was organized March, 1897, by Mrs. C. S. Kinney. Although formed as a study club, it has already branched out into a broader field. Its membership is unlimited, and it has grown steadily in numbers and enthusiasm. It has an able and efficient president in Mrs. S. A. King, the other officers being, Mrs. Reed Smoot, vice-president; Miss Buelah Bachman, secretary; and Mrs. S. R. Thurman, treasurer. The club's present purpose is to raise funds for what will some day, it is hoped, be a public library.

Park City has a flourishing organization in the **Woman's Athenæum**. It has a strong membership, and its meetings under one of its four sections are always interesting. The officers are: Mrs. William M. Ferry, president; Mrs. W. I. Snyder, first vice-president; Mrs. L. E. Hubbard, second vice-president; Mrs. D. C. McLaughlin, secretary; Mrs. Walter Scott, treasurer; Programme Committee, Mrs. W. Mont Ferry, chairman history section; Mrs. F. W. Hayt, current literature; Mrs. J. C. Weeter, education; Mrs. W. S. Sharp, Shakespeare section.

The Historical Society, of Ogden, held its first meeting September 5, 1896, at the home of Mrs. J. M. Bishop, with whom the idea originated. On September 12th an organization was effected: President, Mrs. Dr. Gordon; vice-president, Mrs. J. T. Engle; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. J. M. Bishop.

The purpose of the club as set forth in the constitution is "to investigate history, using as a basis for work Dr. John Lord's 'Beacon Lights of History,' and such other works as may be deemed advantageous from a supplementary standpoint."

Incidentally many pleasant social features have resulted from the organization. The work for 1897 was carefully planned and has in the main been accurately carried out. The volume on "Pagan Civilization" was taken up last September, and the members have taken a survey of the ancient religions of Egypt, Assyria, Persia, India, China, Greece, and Rome, including a study of the philosophy of the ancients, also the laws and customs. At a recent meeting Greek and Roman jurisprudence was the topic, with lawmaking and its execution in the United States as a supplementary one. The only test for membership is moral worth and an interest in the object of the club. The membership is limited to twenty.

State Federation in Utah.—The Utah Federation was organized at Salt Lake City, April 7, 1893, the second State in the Union to federate, Maine preceding it by a year, and Iowa following in one month. It was partly, perhaps, because the clubs were few and needed coöperative companionship that they were inspired to this act of union. It certainly soon proved its

usefulness, bringing strongly diverse elements together, and becoming a great stimulus to club life.

The social conditions of Utah were undoubtedly less favorable than in many States to the rapid growth of the woman's club. Heterogeneous in population and character, made up of strongly contrasted and picturesque but not easily harmonized elements, time was required for homogeneity to grow out of such conditions and crystallize itself into unity.

Here, as elsewhere, the woman's club became a humanizing and organic force. It gathered the best elements, socially and intellectually, and wrought them into centres of power, and, as a federate body, into one of the strongest factors of modern growth and social advancement in Utah.

The influence felt was far more than could be put into words. Every woman working for the establishment of a recognized social order felt the strength of this whole body of women behind her, and the knowledge that all were steadfastly using every effort for the intellectual and social advancement of men, women, and children gave life to every enterprise.

The State chairmen of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, Mrs. A. B. Kinney, and Mrs. C. M. Allen, were the movers in this undertaking. Mrs. Kinney was a niece of Charlotte Emerson Brown. Mrs. Allen had been State Chairman for Utah, and had attended the council meeting of the General Federation at East Orange, and Mrs. Jones was an enthusiastic club worker.

The Ladies' Literary Club, of Salt Lake City, the oldest club in the State, issued the call. Mrs. Kinney called the meeting to order and stated its purpose. Mrs. Allen was, on motion of Mrs. Kinney, made temporary chairman. Seven clubs were represented at this meeting. Six became charter members of the Utah Federation. They were: Ladies' Literary Club, Salt Lake City; Salt Lake Woman's Club, Salt Lake City; Cleofan, Salt Lake City; Utah Woman's Press Club, Salt Lake City; La Coterie, Ogden; Nineteenth Century Club, Provo.

The officers elected April 7 were: President, Mrs. Nora M. Jones; vice-president, Mrs. Amy R. Corlew; secretary, Mrs. Antoinette B. Kinney; treasurer, Miss Georga Webber.

Early in 1894 Mrs. Nora M. Jones resigned the presidency and the



MRS. A. BROWN KINNEY,
State Chairman Cor. General Federation,
Secretary State Federation

vice-president, Mrs. Amy R. Corlew, served for the remainder of the year.

The first annual meeting was held by invitation of the Salt Lake City clubs in Salt Lake City, Thursday, May 10, 1894. The business of the Federation and reports from delegates occupied the morning session. In the afternoon the address of the president, Mrs. A. R. Corlew, was followed by the discussion of "Helps and Hindrances in Club Life," "How Far Should Home Talent be Cultivated," and "To What Extent Should Outside Talent be Introduced," and "Is the Limitation of Club Membership Desirable?" "The Necessity and Advisability of Observing Parliamentary Rules" was the subject of a paper by Mrs. N. Little, of the Cleofan, Salt Lake City.

The ladies who led in the previous questions were Miss Josephine Kellogg, of the Nineteenth Century Club, Provo; Mrs. E. B. Wells, of the Press Club, Salt Lake City; and Mrs. J. R. Leonard, of the Springville Woman's Club.

In the evening there was an address by Mrs. J. B. Farlow on the "History of Women's Clubs in Utah." This was followed by the "Social Phase of



MRS. EMMA J. McVICKER,
Third President

UTAH STATE FEDERATION
MRS. WILLIAM C. JENNINGS,
President

MRS. CORINNE M. ALLEN,
Second President

Club Life," by Mrs. A. C. Patton, of the Magazine Club, Ogden; and the "Educational Influence of Women's Clubs," by Mrs. Allen, of the Ladies' Literary Club, Salt Lake City.

The election resulted in the choice for president of Mrs. Corinne M. Allen. Two clubs had been added to the first six—the Magazine Club, of Ogden, and the Springville Club, of Springville.

The second annual meeting of the Utah State Federation was held by invitation of the Ogden clubs in Ogden, May 22 and 23, 1895.

The reports from delegates and president's address were followed by a debate upon "Continuance in Office," and a paper upon "Woman as a Citizen," by Mrs. E. B. Graham, of the Magazine Club, Ogden.

A memorial paper upon Mrs. Charlotte Emerson Brown was given by Mrs. L. R. Pardee, and an excellent paper upon "Training Schools for Girls," by Mrs. A. K. Hardy. A paper upon "Impersonal Consideration of Club Matters," by Mrs. E. K. La Barthe, was followed by an interesting discussion, and an address by Mrs. L. S. Wilcox upon "Women in Journalism" closed the literary exercises. The proceedings were varied by delightful music, furnished by the Young Ladies' Mandolin Club, of Ogden, and members of clubs of trained musical ability from other cities.

There was a large gathering at the Reed House on Wednesday evening, at which delegates and club women met and established the most cordial and friendly relations. This flower of fellowship for the women of scattered and isolated communities put the seal of value upon federated life.

The balloting resulted in the election of: President, Mrs. E. J. McVicker; vice-president, Mrs. E. S. Reed; secretary, Miss Helen Crawford; treasurer, Mrs. J. B. Farlow.

Seven directors were chosen, the following ladies constituting the board: Mrs. E. B. Wells, Miss Dougall, Mrs. A. B. Patton, Mrs. Amy R. Corlew, Mrs. D. F. Walker, Mrs. W. C. Jennings, Ruth M. Fox.

The third annual convention was held by invitation of Salt Lake City clubs in Salt Lake City, May 20, 1896. Mrs. La Barthe welcomed the delegates on behalf of the hostess clubs, and was responded to by Mrs. McVicker, the president of the Federation.

The programme included papers upon "Social Purity," by Mrs. M. C. Moyle, of Salt Lake City; "Does the New Woman Need a New Party?" by Miss Kellogg, of Provo; "Club-houses," by Mrs. A. B. Kinney, of Salt Lake City; "Higher Education in Its Relation to Wifehood and Motherhood," by Mrs. Todd, of Springville; "What Some Eastern Clubs are Doing," by Miss Coulter, of Ogden; "The Power of a President in a Woman's Club," by Mrs. Adams, of Ogden; "The Attitude of Women's Clubs toward Undesirable Literature," by Mrs. Ranke, of Salt Lake City. "Shall Clubs be Limited?" was the subject of two papers, the first by Mrs. E. B. Jones, the second by Mrs. M. H. Cannon, and was followed by animated discussion.

At this convention a State Organizer was instituted, and Mrs. Kinney appointed to the office. The work proved of such value that the office became a permanent one, and at the fourth annual meeting Mrs. Kinney was the choice of the convention to fill it.

The fourth annual convention was by far the most noteworthy of the annual meetings. It was made so not only by the excellence of the pro-

gramme, but by the presence of the president of the National Federation, Mrs. Ellen M. Henrotin, and of three Colorado women—Mrs. Thatcher and Mrs. Gale, president and vice-president of the Colorado Convention, and Mrs. Platt, president of the Denver Woman's Club. One of the sessions was devoted to educational subjects, at which three papers were given, of which Mrs. Henrotin said they were among the best she had ever heard. A previous business meeting had been held in October, at which officers were elected and also delegates to the biennial of the General Federation. The president elected at the fourth convention, Mrs. William C. Jennings, was unanimously reëlected, and a suggestion made that the constitution be changed so that thereafter the State conventions be held in October biennially instead of annually. This motion was confirmed at the fourth annual convention, in accordance with an amendment to the constitution.

The four delegates chosen to go to Denver in June are Mrs. Graham, of Ogden ; Mrs. Coray, of Provo ; Mrs. Elmer B. Jones and Mrs. Rixer, of Salt Lake City. Utah will have two representatives on the biennial programme: Mrs. C. M. Allen will speak on "The Influence of College Settlements on the Community;" Mrs. Coray will give an address on "Ethical Education." In accordance with the suggestion of the General Federation, indorsed by the Utah Federation, many of the clubs in Utah are now studying educational subjects, both practical and theoretical. At a meeting of the State Teachers' Association on December 28th a paper was given on "What the Women's Clubs are Doing for Education." The Federation has adopted as its line of practical work the establishment of travelling libraries. None is as yet in operation, but a committee has the matter in charge and is studying the *modus operandi* of other States where travelling libraries exist.

The Utah clubs have been rather slow in doing practical work, but the feeling in favor of branching out along practical lines is growing with encouraging rapidity. The largest and oldest and perhaps most conservative club in the State is remodelling its constitution so that its scope will be practically unlimited. The Woman's Club, of Salt Lake City, has always devoted its meetings to the consideration of the practical and live questions of the day. It is at present trying to introduce savings banks into the public schools.

The influence of the women's clubs of the city undoubtedly made itself felt in the recent school election, when it was feared that the existence of the city high school was threatened. Thanks to the action of the Ladies' Literary Club, the candidates for the positions of mayor and councilmen were obliged to declare themselves either for or against the establishment and maintenance of a public library.

It has been a matter of great regret that no public library existed in Salt Lake City. By an act of the Utah Legislature cities of the first and second

class were empowered to levy a tax, not to exceed one-third of a mill, for the establishment of a public library where one thousand taxpayers petitioned that it should be levied. Thanks to the efforts of the women's clubs, the thousand signatures were obtained in Salt Lake City, the tax was levied, and the library started. The Board of Trustees of the library consists of nine members, four of whom are women.

The fifth annual convention will be held in Salt Lake City, by invitation of the Salt Lake City clubs, the third week in October, 1899. The *Review* was adopted as the official organ May 27, 1897. After five years of existence the Federation numbers seventeen clubs, representing a membership of 520 women. Of the seventeen clubs in the Utah Federation eight are in Salt Lake City, four in Ogden, two in Provo, and one each in Springville, Park City, and Coalville. The eight clubs in the capital city are the Ladies' Literary Club, the Woman's Club, the Cleofan, the Reviewers' Club, the Inquirer's Club, the Utah Woman's Press Club, the Reapers' Club, and the Authors' Club.

The second city of importance in the State is Ogden, where there are four flourishing federated clubs and a number which have not yet joined the Federation. The federated clubs are the Aglaia, La Coterie, Historical Club, and Home Culture Club. In Provo the two clubs are the Nineteenth Century Club and Utah Sorosis. Springville has a Woman's Club; Park City, a Woman's Athenæum; Coalville, a Society des Belles Lettres. The last-named club has one unique feature—the husbands of the members are honorary members of the club, and one meeting in the month is held in the evening.

The Ladies' Literary Club, of Salt Lake City, is the largest and oldest in the State. It was organized in 1877, and has now a membership of 150 women. It celebrated its twentieth birthday by assembling in its new club-house for the first time. The president is Mrs. W. A. Welden.

The Woman's Club was organized in 1892. Its president is Mrs. A. V. Taylor.

There is no club in the Utah Federation which does more original work than the Utah Woman's Press Club. The president (1897) is Dr. R. B. Pratt.


No line is drawn in the Utah Federation. Mormons and Gentiles enter on an equal footing, and the work is doing much to break down the walls of ancient prejudice. It is recognized that conditions have been in a state of transition, and will soon be entirely normal, the old ones having their root in convictions that were deeply religious.

The following is the list of the present officers of the Federation: President, Mrs. W. C. Jennings; recording secretary, Mrs. C. S. Kinney; treasurer, Mrs. A. S. Wedgwood; auditor, Mrs. B. Bachman; vice-president, Mrs. J. Fletcher; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. J. McVicker; State organizer, Mrs. M. M. F. Allen.

Vermont

WOMEN'S CLUBS IN VERMONT

THE development of the club life of women in Vermont has been recent, but has shown strength and intelligence. The motive in the beginning was the desire for civic improvement, and the first effort was to coöperate with men along the lines all ready established. But the ways of women and men are different; and when women see that a thing should be done it is better that they do it and let the men come with their approval, as they always do when they see it is a success; and this is exactly what the women of St. Johnsbury did.



Woman's Club, of St. Johnsbury.—In the early spring of 1892 several ladies were invited to meet with the officers of the Board of Trade to consider the question of a woman's club, in the belief that such a body would be a help in increasing the prosperity of St. Johnsbury and in the development of unity among its citizens. From this meeting resulted another of women only, at which time a committee of six was appointed to draft a constitution. May 9th sixty ladies met in the Board of Trade rooms and adopted the constitution, and one week later the organization was completed by the election of officers and directors.

In the choice of officers the club has been exceedingly fortunate. Through the first two years Mrs. Helen D. Ross guided the growth and interest of the club into sure, safe, and broad measures, and Mrs. E. Annie S. May and the present management have been equally successful with the larger progress and opportunity of the last two years.

First in the minds of its organizers was the wish that the club might be a vital and practical force in the community, and perhaps in no way have these aims been more successful than in the department of village improvement. Many a waste place has been beautified, the use of "flyers" and unsightly objects in the streets has been controlled, rubbish has been removed, and settees, which speak of rest and comfort for tired nursemaids and travellers, have been placed in our beautiful parks.

Last summer, through the agency of the Village Improvement Committee, artistic drinking fountains have been placed upon the principal streets, and at present arrangements are nearly completed for placing also large, convenient, and ornamental watering troughs for the use of horses and dogs.

October 30, 1893, a disastrous fire occurred in one of the business streets, and a number of families were made homeless. Mrs. Ross immediately appointed from the club a committee to inquire into the condition of the sufferers.

Through their agency twenty-five families were supplied with clothing, bedding, groceries, household goods, and, where it seemed judicious, with sums of money also.

The St. Johnsbury Home for Aged Women, which is now an established success, is largely due to the efforts of club members and the warm interest which throbbed whenever the subject of such a home was brought before the meetings.

In the autumn of 1896, by request of the president of the Caledonia County Fair Ground Company, the ladies interested themselves in certain departments of the Annual Fair and Coaching Parade, helping to make it a success unattained for years.

Socially the club has been a prominent factor in the life of the town. Twice the club has been the guest of the Board of Trade at banquets, and once a year there is a "gentlemen's" evening, when the club receives the Board of Trade and other invited guests. Then there are dainty and delightful teas, parties, recitals, and receptions, and it is often the pleasure of the St. Johnsbury Woman's Club to entertain the clubs of adjoining towns and women of note from different cities.

In the way of mutual improvement and literary work there have been original addresses and papers of breadth and merit, studies in current events, and demonstrations in practical cookery and household economics.

Mrs. Osgood's parliamentary drill was of service to all who were present, and those who listened to the conversational lectures by Mrs. Custer, Mrs. Todd, and others were pleased and interested



FOUNTAIN GIVEN TO THE TOWN BY ST. JOHNSBURY
WOMAN'S CLUB

Notwithstanding the fact that there have been removals from the list, the membership has been constant in its growth, until to-day there are 160 active members who bring to the meetings fresh, strong, united thought, and the sincere belief that women are to grow stronger and broader and better through the uplifting influence of their clubs.

Lectures under the auspices of the club are now looked for with interest by the townspeople, and are well attended. One of these was by Miss Wheelock, of the Chauncey Hall School, Boston, who was invited to address the mothers of the town on the subject of the kindergarten. The result was a conference from a committee of the club with the school committee on behalf of a public kindergarten, and although the request was not granted at once, there is a reasonable hope that the kindergarten will come soon.

A general interest in the public schools has been greatly stimulated by a series of interesting meetings upon educational topics in the club with open discussion.

The Committee on Social Science has also aroused attention by serious investigation of property laws and inheritance for women in Vermont, and the papers given were of such value that they were printed by request, and the little pamphlet is not only in demand from the women of the State, but called for by the women's clubs of other States.

In response to the invitation of the St. Johnsbury Woman's Club, on March 26, 1896, representatives from different clubs in the State met in St. Johnsbury and formed a Vermont State Federation. After the necessary business the visitors were socially received by the club. Short addresses were made by different women on general club work and some special topics. Mrs. May, the president of the St. Johnsbury Woman's Club, was unanimously elected president of the State Federation, and was reelected at the first annual meeting in October.

The motto of the club is the same as that of the General Federation, "Unity in diversity," and the clover has been adopted as the club flower.

Friends in Council.—Rutland has the honor of possessing the first literary clubs formed in Vermont. Friends in Council came together under the auspices of Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr, the poet, about 1878, and *"First to receive, then to give,"* its meetings were held at her home.

Two years later the **Fortnightly Club** was organized, also with Mrs. Dorr as its active leader and presiding officer.

This organization grew out of the desire of the women of her church to unite for literary culture; and it also did some philanthropic work.

Its motto, taken from an address of the president, is "First to receive, then to give." In it, it is said, has been satisfactorily solved the problem of high and low, rich and poor, cultured and uncultured, meeting on a common

plane and working happily together. Any woman or girl of sixteen who is in the habit of attending the church, whether she belongs to it or not, may become a member of the Fortnightly if her name is presented and indorsed by three members. Of course a vote is taken. But as yet no one has ever been rejected. "We have no (so-called) religious exercises at our meetings, and no hint of sectarianism. We draw the line at our own church, because we must draw it somewhere. If we should open our doors wider, we would grow unwieldy and be unable to do our work satisfactorily. It is a beautiful association—our pet and pride. It has never known the slightest friction or a shade of jealousy. We have the wives of ex-governors, members of Congress, and senators working side by side with shop-girls, for once inside our doors all class distinctions are abolished. We have women of wide culture who have had every advantage of foreign travel, and we have those to whom our meetings give their only outlook into a fuller and broader life."



MRS. JULIA C. R. DORR,
President Friends in Council and Fortnightly Club, Rutland, Vt.

The Friday Club, of Pittsford, is in the midst of a farming community, and the population is scattered. The first suggestion came from a summer resident, who had been for years connected with the Fortnightly, of Chicago.

It was in the autumn of 1894 that an invitation was sent out to all ladies who would be interested in the study of English history and literature to meet at a stated time and place. About thirty women came together. A few brief papers were read relating to a plan of study which had been already prepared. All were interested, but when the question was brought forward of organizing a society which should oblige its members to prepare papers or discuss questions, and which should demand study and preparation for such effort, very few were confident of their ability. Many of those present had left their school days far behind, and but one or two among us were college graduates.

The tone of remark was by no means encouraging. Still a simple form of organization was adopted, with Mrs. Boardman, the originator, as president, and the appointment of a Programme Committee. The results were wonderful. Diligent study and careful preparation made every meeting a success, and the long distance which many of the members have to travel attests their sense of their value.

A Students' Club engages the younger people. The oldest member is eighty years of age. She is one of the most animated and interested members. The club has a small but well-selected village library. Many books recently purchased for it have been chosen in reference to the necessities of the new literary club.

The annual meeting is not held at a uniform time. The summer is a busy season, and the members of the club are not called together until the programme for the coming year is so far arranged that it can be presented and considered.

Everything relating to business is elastic and informal. The study work has been mainly historical, but a short time at the close of each meeting is given to a report of current events. Excellent lecturers have been brought to the town by this club, and the work accomplished has been not only good, but far reaching.

The Green Mountain Club, of Whitingham, was also organized in 1894, mainly through the efforts of a progressive young woman of the town. The neighborhood is interesting as a rural resort, with a road to "The Springs," which follows a pretty mountain stream through the woods.

The town had two churches originally, the small Universalist chapel standing modestly in the rear of its more pretentious Baptist neighbor. A little later, as the Universalists grew less in number, their meeting-house fell into the hands of the Methodists, and this society also failed to maintain its organization. The chapel was then deserted and neglected, until the Green Mountain Club was organized and transformed it into a fine club-home, doing duty, also, as a village hall, where concerts and amateur entertainments of all kinds are given.

Since the work of reconstruction was effected the Methodist society has been rejuvenated, and now the little white spire guides the people to worship on Sunday afternoons, when the Wilmington pastor comes down to hold service, and to literary exercise or musicals on week-days. So the old meeting-house is made to serve a double purpose, and no one will say that the combination of double occupancy is at all harmful to either church or club. The Green Mountain Club has already the nucleus of a very good village library, and its influence in the community is great.

The Seventy Club, of St. Johnsbury, is the only one of its kind. All the

members have passed their seventieth birthday. Mrs. Bingham, who was the first vice-president, is now its president. She is eighty years old. Mrs. Maria Haseltine celebrated her ninetieth birthday on February 14, 1897, and is called the "Valentine" of the club. She still recites poems with a clearness and accuracy that compare favorably with many modern readers. On her eighty-eighth birthday, in 1895, Mrs. Haseltine received from her grandson, in Akron, Ohio, a sufficient number of rubber water bottles for each member of the club, stamped: "The Seventy Club, February 14, 1895, St. Johnsbury, Vt." The "hot-water-bottle" joke was thoroughly appreciated.

The Fortnightly Club, of Bennington, dates from 1892. It was the first one formed as an all-around club, with standing committees upon Art, Literature, Education, Social Science, History and Travel, and Current Events.

The programmes were arranged under the direction of the chairmen of these committees, and represented the subjects and interests of the field they covered.

In 1892-93, under the head of Social Science, the race problem and the whole subject of immigration were investigated, and the results given in original papers and by discussion.

The Art Committee presented interesting papers upon "Historic Gems," "Precious Stones of the United States," "Gems in their Artistic Relations," and "Legendary Lore."

The Committee on Education discussed "Compulsory Education," "Education in Common Schools," "The Educational Outlook," and "What Is a Liberal Education?"

History and travel furnished interesting subjects in "Contrasts in a Trip to California," "Advantages of Travel," and "How Can We Secure These Advantages at Home?"

There is no record of its later work.

Vermont State Federation.—On March 26, 1896, by invitation of the St. Johnsbury Woman's Club, thirteen delegates from other clubs and towns met the members of the hostess club for the purpose of considering State organization. They were welcomed by Mrs. Elisha May, who, in a happy address, explained the object of the coming together. Miss Edwards, representing the Morrisville Woman's Club, made the response on behalf of the delegates.

The clubs represented were the Philomathian, Clover, and Over-the-Teacups, of Barre; Century Club, of Middleboro; Woman's Club, of Morrisville; Monday Club, of Brandon; Informals and Shakespeare, of Lyndonville; and representatives from Brattleboro.

An organization was at once effected, a constitution adopted, and the following officers elected: President, Mrs. Elisha May, St. Johnsbury; vice-

president, Mrs. P. K. Gleed, Morrisville; secretary and treasurer, Mrs. E. J. Blodgett, Lyndonville.

Mrs. May, Miss Edwards, and Mrs. C. M. Winslow gave short addresses on the different aspects of club life and work. There was a general feeling of satisfaction over the accomplishment of an objective center of federated unity and happy anticipations of the extension of clubs and their influence.

The second annual meeting of the Federation took place at Brandon, October 13 and 14, 1897. The Woman's Club, of Brandon, was the hostess, and the reception to the delegates was given in the evening at the home of the president, Miss Julia A. C. Jackson. The house is a fine old colonial mansion, and it was a great pleasure to the club women to meet so many of the representative women of the State, and particularly one who has long been known as a poet of national fame as well as a source of local pride, Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr, of Rutland, who was the guest of honor upon the occasion. The address of welcome by Miss Jackson was a poem. The response, followed by an interesting address, was by the State president, Mrs. Elisha May, of St. Johnsbury. The roll-call showed thirteen clubs represented by delegates, and the official reports, growing interest and much inquiry from different parts of the State in regard to the possibilities of associated club life.

The reports from local clubs were especially interesting, as the clubs themselves had heretofore known very little of each other. In the afternoon the report of the Educational Committee was made by Mrs. L. D. Temple, of Brattleboro. The report showed so much need of and opportunity for work that it was voted to send Mrs. Temple to the meeting of the State Board of Education, held at Woodstock, to express the sympathy of the Federation and the readiness to assist, if possible, in the work of the board. A paper on "The Club Idea," by Miss Jackson, was followed by discussion on "Limited or Unlimited Membership." Mrs. H. D. Ross, of St. Johnsbury, gave a suggestive talk on "Woman's Work in State Institutions," followed by discussion, which resulted in the formation of a committee to confer with men in regard to introducing a bill in the State Legislature to provide for women serving on State Boards of Charity. Mrs. Ormsbee, of Brandon, read a paper on "Samoa; Its People and Their Customs," with personal reminiscences of Robert Louis Stevenson.

The election resulted in the choice of president, Mrs. L. D. Temple, of Brattleboro; vice-president, Miss Julia A. C. Jackson, of Brandon; secretary, Mrs. Constance G. Blodgett, of Lyndonville; treasurer, Mrs. J. Henry Jackson, of Barre.

The evening programme began with music, followed by readings from her own poems by Mrs. Julia C. R. Dorr, and an interesting address on "The

Relation of Education to the Problems of Philanthropy," by Mrs. Alice Freeman Palmer, of Cambridge, Mass.

The usual resolutions and the introduction of the new president by the retiring one, Mrs. May, were followed by an informal reception held by the executive officers, assisted by the guests of honor, Mrs. Palmer and Mrs. Dorr. The resolutions closed with a tribute from the Executive Board to the first president, Mrs. Elisha May, of St. Johnsbury. It concluded as follows: "We appreciate not only the fact that these first eighteen months of our Federation life have called for a tact, a discrimination, and a wisdom on the part of its president that no future term may do, but that our very existence as a State Federation is owing largely to your efforts. We do not forget whose was the hand that wrought so tirelessly and with so little encouragement outside her own club till the Vermont Federation was not only a fact, but a living working power. For all this faithful service we beg you to accept our hearty thanks."

The constitution of the Vermont Federation is a model of conciseness and good sense. Its object is "to bring together for mutual help, for intellectual improvement, and for social union the women's clubs of the State."

"Each club must be able to assure to the Executive Committee that the purpose of its organization is in no way political or sectarian."

Individual clubs only are admitted. "Clubs in their associated capacity as city or sectional leagues shall not be admitted."

The clubs federated are the Woman's Club, St. Johnsbury; Clover Club, Barre; Monday Club, Brandon; Over-the-Teacups Club, Barre; the Informals, Lyndonville; Philomathian Club, Barre; Shakespeare Club, Lyndonville; Century Club, Middlebury; Woman's Club, Morrisville; Woman's Club, Brattleboro; Fortnightly Club, Bennington; Progressives, Rutland; Woman's Club, Rochester.

The new Library laws of the different States have in some instances been effectively influenced by the women's clubs of the State. This is notably the case at the South. The Library law of Vermont took effect in February, 1895, and within six months forty towns voted to establish public libraries, and received the proffered grant of \$100 worth of books from the State.

The Barre Clover Club was one of the earliest in that town, having been formed in 1889. It was at first a reading class, but in 1895 was reorganized as a regular woman's club, having for its object social culture and literary improvement. The first officers were: Mrs. L. Robinson, president; Mrs. Julia Bisbee, Mrs. Lizzie Nowell, Mrs. Louise Packer, committee; Miss Mary West, secretary; Mrs. Martin, treasurer. The work has been confined to the study of history and art, in which the members have become much interested, each member taking part in the weekly meetings at the homes of members, which

begin in October and end in March with the annual meeting. This club has joined both State and General Federations. The membership is limited to twenty. The present list of officers is : Mrs. E. L. Worthen, president ; Mrs. Hester Richardson, vice-president ; Mrs. Elsie Scribner, Mrs. Lizzie Robinson, Mrs. Tayntor, committee ; Mrs. Whitaker, secretary ; Mrs. Elsie Scribner, treasurer ; Mrs. Cora Jackson, director.

The Brattleboro Woman's Club was organized April 1, 1896, with Mrs. L. D. Temple, president ; Miss Susan Clark, vice-president ; and Miss Jessie Gregg, secretary and treasurer. The club was admitted to the Vermont Federation at the organization of that body. Its object is the intellectual benefit of members through lines of study, and the expression of thought, oral or written. The founder, Mrs. Temple, had been for four years a member of the Lansing Woman's Club, of Michigan, and brought the club idea with her to Brattleboro so strong that she ventured to issue a general call to those interested in a woman's club to meet with her, which was done. At the first meeting twenty-five ladies voted to have the club, although only twelve actually joined in the formation of it. Membership, which is not limited, has since increased to forty-three, all of whom are very enthusiastic supporters and active workers. Twelve are teachers and stenographers, women whose duties prevent their attendance at afternoon meetings, but who are desirous of sharing club advantages, and attend meetings held in the evening especially for them, at which the same papers which are read at the day meetings are given over again. In January, 1897, this club started a free kindergarten, which has since been maintained with great success, and will be continued through the coming year. The club intends to make this kindergarten a prominent feature of work. The annual meeting is held the first Friday in April, and ends with a banquet and toasts. This club has become one of the most influential factors in the beautiful elm-shaded town of Brattleboro, and the outlook for the future is very promising. The present officers are : Mrs. L. D. Temple, president ; Mrs. Nettie C. Whitaker, Mrs. Nora Kenney, vice-presidents ; Miss Jessie Gregg, secretary ; Mrs. Nina Dewitt, treasurer.

The Bennington Fortnightly was organized February 7, 1891, and admitted to the Vermont Federation January, 1897. Membership is not limited, any woman who is well-bred and of good character, over sixteen, being eligible for admission. Meetings are held every other Saturday during the club season, and the annual meeting is the second Saturday in April. The annual fee is twenty-five cents. The year-book for 1897-98 is one of the handsomest issued in New England. The work laid out covers Social Science, Education, History, Travel, Art, Literature, and Current Events, with two meetings each. The last is the annual, and this is largely musical. The club now numbers about two hundred, and the officers are : Mrs. C. R. Seymour,

president; Miss M. H. Morgan, vice-president; Mrs. Helen J. Thomas, secretary; Mrs. J. M. Burt, treasurer.

The Clio Club, of Barre, is composed of young unmarried ladies who caught the club spirit prevalent in that town and organized January 6, 1897, with the following officers: Miss Pearl M. Abbey, president; Miss Alice Pape, vice-president; Miss Edna D. Perry, secretary; Miss Cora Jones, treasurer. The object is to promote social and intellectual life among the young women of Barre, and promote the study of the best American authors. Membership is limited to twenty, but the club is so recently organized that it has no history. The first annual meeting was held on the first Wednesday in January, 1898.

The Garnet Seal Club, of Montpelier, was organized in October, 1894, with Mrs. Alice M. Richardson, president, and Clara Macomber, secretary. The Garnet Seal books of the Chautauqua course were first taken for the club work, which gave it its name. Club meetings are held weekly, on Friday afternoons, from October to April. The club has not as yet joined either the State or General Federation. The annual meeting is the 1st of April, and the last meeting of the season is made a red-letter day. More than half the members are Chautauqua graduates, and all have been connected at some time with the Chautauqua work, but this is not a requisite qualification of membership. The first year the club numbered fifteen. Membership is now limited to twenty. The club is doing active work along its lines of study. The present year will complete the Garnet Seal's course, and another year it is probable that this club will take up some more general course of reading. The present officers are: Mrs. Alice M. Richardson, president; Mrs. H. K. Sherburne, vice-president; Mrs. A. D. Farwell, secretary.

The Informal Club, of Lyndonville, was started in 1892 by a few ladies who desired to spend a few hours each month in literary pursuits. The officers at first consisted of president and secretary, and a committee of two appointed by the president to help lay out work for each meeting. The officers at that time were Mrs. Constance G. Blodgett, president, and Mrs. A. D. Pearl, secretary. The membership was increased the following year, and has since grown gradually until it now numbers about twenty. This club joined both the State and General Federation in 1896, being one of the first clubs to suggest the Vermont Federation, and helping to form it. The object so far has been literary, several of the members having completed a four years' Chautauqua course. During the present year the study will cover Germany, its history, art, and literature. The annual meeting occurs the third week in September. At present the officers are: Miss Carrie Jeffers, president; Mrs. Elva Dodge, vice-president; Mrs. S. E. Balch, secretary and treasurer.

The Lyndonville Shakespeare Club was formed as a reading class during

the winter of 1888-89. The original members were Mrs. H. E. Folsom, Mrs. E. L. Wells, Mrs. W. C. Tillotson, Ida S. Pearl. A constitution and by-laws were adopted November, 1891, with Mrs. H. E. Folsom, president; Mrs. H. L. Parker, vice-president; Mrs. E. L. Wells, secretary; Ida S. Pearl, treasurer. Studies have covered Shakespeare's plays, Browning, the Chautauqua course, political economy, ornithology, architecture, Italian art, Dutch and Spanish art, French history and art, the American colonies. This club joined the Vermont Federation as original member. Present officers are: Mrs. Constance Gerry Blodgett, president; Mrs. May H. Todd, vice-president; Mrs. H. L. Parker, treasurer; Miss Susie B. Hume, secretary. The annual meeting is the first Saturday in October.

The Middlebury Century Club was organized in 1894, the first officers being: Miss Susan E. Archibald, president; Miss Fanny Barber, Miss Norton, Mrs. J. E. Crane, vice-presidents; Miss Alice Rockwell, secretary; Miss Alice Bird, treasurer; Miss Mary Roscoe, Mrs. H. H. Bryant, Miss Cora Bingham, Executive Committee. It was originally a neighborhood club, having only fifteen members, which have now increased to forty. It belongs to the State Federation, and has for its object intellectual pursuits and the advancement of its members; also to aid the general intellectual and moral progress of the public interests of Middlebury. Nineteenth century authors were studied during the first two years. The third was devoted to the Elizabethan period, and during the present year the history and literature of England in the seventeenth century has been the general subject. New members are coming in, and it is hoped that something in the way of public work will be accomplished in the near future. The annual meeting is held the 1st of January, and the officers at present are the same as at first, except that the secretary now is Mrs. J. Ford.

The Monday Club, of Brandon, was organized December 4, 1893, with the following officers: Mrs. Mary Herring, president; Mrs. E. F. Howard, vice-president; Elizabeth Winslow, secretary and treasurer. This club joined the Vermont Federation at its outset, and entertained it at the annual meeting in October. Its object is to promote intellectual and social culture, and the first three years' work covered famous men and women, American history, and authors of the nineteenth century. Germany and its authors is the work of the present year. Two social gatherings are held annually and two business meetings, the latter being in May and October. One of the social meetings is held during the holiday season, and the last in May before the summer vacation. Last winter a play was given with great success. Membership is limited to twenty-five. The present list of officers is: Miss Julia A. C. Jackson, president; Mrs. Mary Weeks, vice-president; Mrs. Annie Smith, secretary; Mrs. Nellie M. Nutting, treasurer; Miss Margaret Forbes, chairman Programme Committee; Miss Louise Seeley, chairman Social Committee.

The Morrisville Woman's Club was formed in October, 1892, with Mrs. P. K. Gleed, president; Mrs. E. P. Seymore, vice-president; and Mrs. W. A. Robinson, secretary and treasurer. This was one of the clubs that helped to form the State Federation in October, 1896. It has mutual improvement for its object, and an unlimited membership of forty. The prospects are encouraging for a larger membership and better work in the future. It is composed of all sorts and conditions of women, who desire to make their work practical and not to soar beyond what they can accomplish. The past year a good programme was arranged, and a public lecture course has been furnished the village for two seasons. Mrs. Gleed, the president, is a very active and efficient club woman, and the Morrisville Club owes its success largely to her knowledge and efforts. The annual meeting is held in April, and the present officers are: Mrs. Gleed, president; Mrs. J. J. Billings, Mrs. A. R. Campbell, vice-presidents; Mrs. George Houghton, secretary; Miss Agnes Woodward, treasurer; Mrs. Herbert Slocum, Federation secretary.

The Hyde Park Woman's Club has done excellent work during the past year, having adopted the programme plan for the first time. They are not yet ready to federate, but will probably do so during the coming year. Mrs. F. Keeler is president.

The Phillomathian Club, of Barre, was organized in October, 1894, and has had a very successful history. Rev. Effie K. Jones was the first president; Mrs. Mary Hale, vice-president; Mrs. Lola W. Sherburne, "*More light*," secretary and treasurer. The club belongs to both the State and General Federations. Mutual improvement in literature, art, science, and current topics is the object. English history, growth of the American nation, and Grecian history have, so far, been studied. The present year English authors and music occupy the meetings, with three social gatherings. Membership is limited to twenty, and is filled. The club has a motto, "*More light*," and a flower, the white carnation. The present board of officers is: Annie G. Phelps, president; Mrs. Ida Sheperd, vice-president; Mrs. Ida Martin, secretary and treasurer; Miss Alice Smith, corresponding secretary.

The Phillomathian Club, of Waterbury, was founded in 1894, but is, as yet, not a member of the State Federation. Membership is unlimited and has reached thirty-three. Prospects for the future are encouraging, the attendance being good and interest in the work great. This is largely a reading class, and one afternoon of each week is devoted to literary pursuits, Friday being the club day. The annual meeting is held the 1st of January. The present officers are: Mrs. C. C. Warren, president; Mrs. Charles Clark, vice-president; Mrs. A. H. Smith, secretary; Mrs. Fred Atkins, treasurer.

Over-the-Teacups Club, of Barre, was organized in 1894, with the following officers: Mrs. C. N. Benedict, president; Mrs. F. T. Cutler, vice-president;

Mrs. G. B. Nichols, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. George Richardson, Mrs. E. L. Smith, Mrs. G. E. McFarland, Executive Committee. It was at first a reading class, and this year will be devoted to studying the lives and characters of eminent women; also taking up some work in the Chautauqua course. The club joined the State Federation in April, 1896. Membership is limited to twenty. The prospects for the current year are excellent, members taking a lively interest in the affairs of the club. The annual meeting occurs the last of May, and the officers at present are: Mrs. Fannie Jackson, president; Mrs. Lenora Cutler, vice-president; Mrs. Hattie McFarland, secretary and treasurer; Mrs. Eliza Forsyth, Mrs. Effie K. Jones, Mrs. Emma Rickert, Mrs. Catherine McDonald, programme committee; Mrs. Hattie McFarland, director.

The Quadrivium Club, of Burlington, organized in 1890 as an experiment, but proved so successful that it has continued to the present time. It is composed of four distinct circles: one for the study of art, one for the study of history, one for literature, and one for music. The club has the usual officers, and each circle has its own chairman and secretary. The members of each circle meet once in two weeks. Three or four times during the year open meetings, so called, are held, when the four circles meet together for a social time and to discuss the work of the club. It is an unfederated club.

Washington

First Federated Clubs.—The first five clubs enrolled in the General Federation in the State of Washington were: The Woman's Club, of Olympia; the Woman's Century Club, of Seattle; Spokane Sorosis; the Aloha Club, of Tacoma; and the Cultus Club, of Spokane.

These clubs represent a great diversity of method in their unity of high purpose.

The Olympia Club was organized in 1883, and incorporated in 1890. The club documents are dignified by a handsome seal.

Fifty is the limit of membership. Bi-monthly meetings are held throughout the year.

One year's work has been devoted to the study of Washington laws relating to women. This club observes a ceremonious initiation of members and installation of officers, has special rules of order, and a burial service.

Spokane Sorosis was organized in 1891. The last meeting in each month of the club year is devoted to the life and works of an author.

The study of the Columbian Exposition was continued through the club year of 1892 and 1893.

The New Century Club, organized in 1891, meets twice a month. One season was devoted to a comprehensive study of woman, and one to the World's Fair by countries.

A Round Table includes departments in art, literature, education, hygiene, philanthropy, religion, politics, science, temperance, and woman's progress. The measure for raising the "age of consent" from twelve to sixteen years had its birth in the New Century Club.

The Cultus Club was organized in 1892. The meetings occur every week. A varied line of study is pursued, embracing current topics, English and American authors, history, and art. The membership is limited to thirty.

The Aloha Club, organized in May, 1892, joined the General Federation by telegraph at the age of one year. Alternate meetings are devoted to practical questions, and others to literature, music, drama, science, and art.

The meetings are held every two weeks during the club season of eight months. The club colors are violet and gold; the club flower, pansy.

The list of topics discussed by these clubs covers a wide range of thought, and the social events of each embrace special features. The pioneer spirit which brought some of the Washington Club women around Cape Horn in 1865 abides here to lead on toward untried paths in human progress.

This State was represented at the last biennial by a delegate from Spokane Sorosis.

Delegates from the Olympia Woman's Club, Spokane Sorosis, and Aloha Club, attended the Federation Council in the World's Congress of Representative Women.

E. A. J.

The Woman's Club, of Olympia, was the first woman's club established in the State, and the oldest on the Pacific coast except one, the Ebell Society, in Oakland, Cal. March 10, 1883, was its birthday, and it was founded for study and the mutual improvement of its members by Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, who was its first president and who is called "the mother of the club."



ABBIE H. H. STUART.

Founder and First President of Woman's Club,
of Olympia, Wash.

For the first seven years it was her guest at her residence. During the next three years it led a nomadic life. In April, 1893, it took possession of the hall in Stuart Block for its sessions and for all social occasions. It has a kitchen and all appliances in its club-rooms, and owns all its furniture and fixtures, beside having a snug sum at interest. It hopes to move no more until it takes possession of its own clubhouse, the land for which has already been set aside by Mrs. Stuart.

The history of this club is one of constant and careful endeavor. It has been conducted upon a strictly parliamentary basis, and its officers have generally been well trained in the law and able courteously to enforce it, up to December, 1890, when it became incorporated. The officers are: a president, vice-president, recording secretary, "functa fuvant," corresponding secretary, treasurer, and two trustees, the whole forming a Board of Directors, of which the senior elected trustee is chairman. Its membership is constitutionally limited to fifty, although nearly one hundred have been received into membership during

its life of nearly fourteen years; deaths, removals, and resignations accounting for the balance.

Although it has always been conservative and in some senses exclusive, it was among the first to offer its allegiance to the General Federation of Women's Clubs; in September of the preceding year, by its duly appointed delegates, it helped to establish the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs; and the first annual convention of this body convened at Olympia in June, 1897, at the invitation of the Olympia Club. It was the first woman's club in the country to have initiation and installation ceremonies, and it has a burial service, though in no sense a charitable or beneficiary organization. It issues honorary membership and travelling certificates under seal, the last vouching for the "good standing" of the member.

It has two regular "occasions" during the year, a tea in September, for members only, and the anniversary banquet to which a limited number of guests are invited. Special receptions are sometimes arranged for distinguished visitors in the city, and guests in members' families from out of town are admitted to club sessions after the conclusion of business. Club women are cordially welcomed at any time.

A programme for the twenty-six regular meetings is prepared by a committee appointed by the president, and is issued yearly.

The club may discuss all questions save religion, temperance, and politics. Character is the only qualification for membership. All classes and opinions are represented, intelligence and a desire to work along the lines laid down being essential. The initiation fee is ten dollars, and the yearly dues three dollars. In addition to this, the cost of social affairs is distributed pro rata among the attending members.

The club colors are blue and silver; the club flower, the blue forget-me-not; the club motto, "United they assist." The club insignia is a blue enamelled silver bar pin with the words: "Woman's Club, of Olympia."

The record of the years has been generally harmonious.

Differences of opinion sometimes arise, but schisms have found no foothold; it has steadily pursued its original purpose, and it counts among its members many bright minds, who give and receive the intellectual food which is broadening and developing them for better lives and better work in the



MRS. CHARLOTTE S. BRINTNALL,
Second President of Woman's Club, of
Olympia, Wash.

world. As a body, the club of Olympia echoes the sentiment of one who has said: "The best thing that the century has given to woman is the woman's club."

The officers are represented by the Board of Directors, and for 1896-97 were: President, Mrs. B. J. I. Savage; vice-president, Mrs. E. T. Stork; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. V. R. Bates; recording secretary, Mrs. A. C. Macdonald; treasurer, Mrs. G. S. Ford; trustees, Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, chairman of Board, and Mrs. Laura W. Percival.

The Aloha Club, of Tacoma, is the largest and one of the most interesting clubs in the State. It was founded in 1891 by Mrs. Ella K. Parsons, and it has had no other president. Its musical name signifies "my love to you"; and the influence of the club has always been of a most kindly and elevating character.

The limit of membership, which is sixty, is always full; and its work, represented by standing committees in literature, art, music, science, and sociology, is of a high order. The purely literary aspects of the club are now, however, giving place to practical questions which have of late occupied much of the time. Aloha issues fine yearly books, tastefully arranged, and suggestive of a high degree of culture and literary refinement.



MRS. ELLA K. PARSONS,
President Aloha Club, Tacoma, Wash.

Under the head of "Practical Questions" are found such topics as "Should Ethics be Taught in the Public Schools?" "How to Bring More Repose Into Modern Life," and "The Substitution of Steam and Electricity for the Labor of Men and Animals. Under this head, also, has been discussed, "How Shall we Train our Daughters?" "Some British Excellencies in Civic Conditions"; "Social Life at Home and Abroad," and "Does Society Need a Leader?"

As texts for the social side, Emerson is quoted: "Manners are the happy way of doing things"; and Marcus Aurelius, "As thou thyself art a component part of a social system, so let every act of thine be a component part of social life."

The Christmas festivity in 1895 was celebrated by the production of a play, "Those Women," written by Mildred Fuller Wallace, a daughter of Chief Justice Wallace. The scene was laid in New York, the time 1900, and

it was acted entirely by the club members under the supervision of the author. The success was complete, and many requests have been received for its production on behalf of charities.

In relation to its social and literary character the president writes :

"I am not willing to class our club as 'egotistic.' In striving to cultivate our intellectual and moral faculties we are, I am sure, exercising an elevating influence upon the community in which we live, and we are 'altruistic' in our aims and hope to grow more and more so."

The literary club need make no excuses. The cultivation of the mind and heart which it has brought to the women whose life had been previously bounded by the most practical family and economic questions, has brought a mental and spiritual expansion that will exercise a far finer influence upon the life of the twentieth century than the continued attempt to solve unsolvable problems.

The officers of Aloha for 1897 were: President, Mrs. G. Parsons; first vice-president, Mrs. C. W. Griggs; second vice-president, Mrs. L. W. Roys; recording secretary, Mrs. W. Biglow; corresponding secretary, Miss N. B. Wallace; treasurer, Mrs. F. Jacobs.

The entrance fee of the club is five dollars.

Acceptance of candidates for members is by the Board of Directors, three negatives excluding.

Meetings are semi-weekly, and the business follows the literary programme. Mrs. Linden W. Bates, of Chicago, is the only honorary member.

The officers for 1898 are: President, Mrs. Galusha Parsons; first vice-president, Miss N. B. Wallace; second vice-president, Mrs. L. P. Bradley; recording secretary, Mrs. R. B. Price; corresponding secretary, Mrs. G. H. Walker; treasurer, Mrs. Alexander Thomson.

The club colors are violet and gold; the flower the pansy.

The following lines dedicated to "Aloha" appear on the front page of its year-book:

" 'Aloha'—word with sweetest meaning fraught,
From sea-girt isles its loving message sends
To cheer the heart of its long-parted friends.
Hawaiian speech to me has lately taught

This simple phrase, to grace my kindly thought
Of you, dear one, to whom my heart extends
This soulful greeting, while its music lends
A charm with its significance inwrought.

Shall I its import now to you disclose.
 Or trust love's subtle intuition clear
 To scent the fragrance of this foreign rose?
 Inbreathe, my friend, its dainty, rare aroma,
 The while I whisper in your very ear,
 'My love to you'—the meaning of 'Aloha.'"

—Mary B. Wilcox.

Spokane Sorosis was founded on January 24, 1891, by thirty ladies, who met for the purpose of discussing a plan of organization having for its object "the development of fellowship among women, and to promote the best practical methods of self-improvement."

"The sense of beauty and
 desire for truth."

The gathering was in response to a call in the daily papers, addressed to all women interested, by Mrs. Laura Shellabarger Hunt, who had been a member of the Decatur (Illinois) Sorosis, and, missing her club associates in her new home, took this very practical method of forming new ones.



LAURA SHELLABARGER HUNT,
 Founder Spokane Sorosis, Wash.

The club organization was effected with twenty-six charter members, and Mrs. A. E. Houghton was elected the first president. The club name was adopted by unanimous approval at the second meeting, and Mrs. Hunt's experience in club work established a system and order from its beginning which greatly enhanced the value of the work.

Able original papers, including a sketch of the life of Charles Dickens and readings of his works, were given at the second meeting; and this last topic probably laid the foundation for the brilliant series of "authors' days," which have been a memorable feature of the club life. For several years the meetings were held every Saturday afternoon, the fourth Saturday being "authors' day." These were specialized by artistic programmes, painted or otherwise decorated by club members, and the club rooms were made attractive with flowers.

Among the treasures possessed by the club is an authors' album, presented by a member on "Jennie June" day. It contains Longfellow's autograph, and letters from Oliver Wendell Holmes, John Greenleaf Whittier, Charles Dudley Warner, Julia Ward Howe, Elizabeth Stuart Phelps-Ward, Ella Wheeler Wilcox, J. C. Croly, and Harriet Beecher Stowe; also a kind letter

from the Rev. Thomas Wentworth Higginson, accompanying one written by Helen Hunt Jackson in 1869.

Another prize album was also presented by a member, in which is kept all the club papers that have been published, and the annual reports of the year in which they were given.

A start was made in the early days towards establishing a free library, but the financial result of the effort was contributed to the Union Library Association, and to it were also given the books that had been collected.

While Spokane Sorosis is not a charitable or philanthropic association in any cause, it has assisted in the work of the Woman's Exchange, the free kindergartens, and floral missions. It has been widely hospitable to other clubs, when special subjects, "such as "Industrial Schools," "Coöperative Housekeeping," and "Women as Wage Earners," were discussed by experts.

Whatever is going on, the regular work is not allowed to suffer. Standing committees in literature, art, history, education, sociology, household economics, and current events supply interesting subjects for all regular meetings, and keep the interest continually alive in their separate fields.

In February, 1892, the Shakespeare Class was organized as auxiliary to Sorosis. In that year the club was admitted to the General Federation through its representative, Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes, who is now a member of the Board of Directors of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, and was the first chairman of State correspondence. The influence of Spokane Sorosis has been felt in the organization of neighborhood clubs, such as the Flora Club, of Kettle Falls; the Woman's Club, of North Yakima; and Neighborhood Club, of Le Grande Avenue.

The meetings are still held in the parlors of the hotel at Spokane, and the outline of work for 1897-98 is one of the best, in matter and manner, ever issued by the club. "Scientific Methods in Modern Education," "The Decadence of the Theoretical and Introduction of the Practical," and "Patriotic Teaching in Home and School," are some of the topics from the education department.

Authors' days are given to Ian McLaren, Robert Louis Stevenson, Thomas Bailey Aldrich, Rudyard Kipling, and others; and upon "Federa-



ESTHER A. JOBES,

Ex-President Spokane Sorosis; Member Board of Directors, G. F. W. C.; Ex-Chairman of State Correspondence for Washington

tion day" the club will discuss "Reciprocity in State Federation Work," "The Advantages of Federation to the Club Woman Away from Home," and "News from Women's Clubs in Foreign Lands."

Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes, the president from 1895 to 1897, has been succeeded by Mrs. E. R. Prather; vice-presidents, Mrs. Jobes, Mrs. Ashenfetter, and Mrs. M. P. Babcock. The Federation secretary is Mrs. Josephine Brinkerhoff.

In the Spokane Sorosis exhibit in Chicago, 1893, was a fine leather-bound volume containing some of the club papers, essays, and the like, by members. One, entitled "Before the Fair," was by Mrs. L. C. P. Haskins, and presented a most admirable summary of the preparatory work and achievements of the great exposition as seen both before and at the time of the event. It was a notable piece of work, and was published in full in the *New Cycle* of that date.

The Nesika Club, of Tacoma, which joined with the Aloha in the call for State federation, was founded by Mrs. John J. Mason, and Mrs. Beverly N. Coiner, who, in September, 1892, invited fifteen ladies to meet with them for the purpose of organizing a literary club. Though a small organization, it takes high rank among the literary clubs of the State. Its president, Mrs. Coiner, has been identified with club work for years, was an active member of the Art League, the Ladies' Musical Club, and the Free Kindergarten Association. She is also a Daughter of the Revolution. The corresponding secretary of the State federation is a member of this club. The secretary of Nesika is Mrs. J. A. Hardenberg.



MRS. REBECCA J. ELY,
First President Classic Culture Club, Seattle,
Wash.

It has five departments of study, and meets on alternate Tuesdays, the year beginning in October.

The Classic Culture Club was the first organized in Seattle. It was originally formed as a class, in July, 1891, under the leadership of Mrs. W. M. Schaffner, at a time when a great fire had reduced the city to ashes, and business was conducted in tents.

The second year Mrs. R. J. Ely, who has been the leader for twelve months, was elected president under a more formal organization, and the Classic Culture Club took rank as the second oldest and one of the best literary organizations of the State.

The Woman's Century Club, of Seattle, was the first one in that city to join (1892) the General Federation. It is a strong club, more aggressive in its methods than the purely literary clubs, and had for its first president, Mrs. C. L. Chapman-Catt, afterwards so well known as a progressive leader and speaker throughout the United States.

It was through the efforts of this club that the "age of consent" in Washington was raised from twelve to sixteen years.

It discusses such questions as the "Labor Problem," "What to do with the Unemployed?" "Women, and Domestic Service," "Are Trusts Trustworthy?" Alternate meetings are purely extemporaneous; no papers being allowed, and the subjects being vital and current, very spirited discussions are elicited.

The membership is between thirty and forty, with two honorary, Mrs. Elizabeth Lyle Saxon, and Mrs. Chapman-Catt.

The presiding officer, 1896-97, was Mrs. C. L. Slauson, who was one of the Constitutional Committee of the State Federation.

Her successor is Mrs. K. T. Holmes, and the present secretary is Miss N. P. Phillips.

Dr. Sarah Kendall, the Chairman of State Correspondence of the General Federation of Women's Clubs, has her home in Seattle, and is a member of the Woman's Century Club.

The Nineteenth Century Literary Club is the latest formed club in Seattle; it is composed of thirty extremely bright and energetic young women. Its founder and president was Miss Frances Knapp, a young lady of literary ability, and recording secretary of the State federation.



MRS. C. L. SLAUSON,
Ex-President Woman's Century Club, Seattle,
Wash.



MISS FRANCES KNAPP,
President Nineteenth Century Club,
Seattle, Wash.

The Cultus Club, Spokane, was organized February 9, 1892, in the rooms of Mrs. E. P. Galbraith, with seven charter members, six of whom formed the first board of officers. By October of the same year the membership had increased to thirty, where it remains. Committees had been formed, including Executive, Entertainment, and Membership committees.

Mrs. J. J. Brown, a pioneer member, has the distinction of christening the new club. It was one way of signifying "All work and no play makes dull women." Also, that it made no literary pretenses. The word as defined in the dictionary of Chinook jargon, or Indian trade language of the Pacific coast, means worthless, good-for-nothing, without purpose. "Without purpose" was at once contradicted in article two of the constitution. "The object of the club shall be intellectual and social improvement." The club still maintains its right and privilege to play, but this has not kept it from doing excellent work. While at first conservative in increasing its membership or adopting club methods, it soon caught the club spirit.

In May, 1893, the Cultus joined the General Federation of Women's Clubs. In the place of the quarterly programme, the year's study was outlined in tastefully prepared year-books. The membership soon increased to thirty, but the Cultus still remains a parlor club.

The study as pursued from the beginning is classed as "miscellaneous," but there have been delightful hours among authors and their homes, English and American, both in prose and poetry. While the general outline has seemed superficial, the special topics have received careful treatment. Following the study of English and American writers, there were months devoted to "The Spanish in Florida," "Spanish Missions in America," "Old Creole Days in the South," well-selected studies in "Colonial History," "Legends of the Northwest Indians," and "Early Life in the Northwest."

Going back some centuries "The School of Florentine Painting" was studied in outline, with the expectation of laying a foundation for the modern schools in the future. Science, from the popular standpoint, and current events have received attention; and woman in literature, science, art, and philanthropy, has received homage.

The name that heads the list of corresponding members is that of Clara Barton, president of the American Red-Cross Society.

The much lamented Mrs. Nicholson (Pearl Rivers), of the New Orleans *Picayune*, was an honorary member.

The wild rose is the club flower, and pink and cream the colors.

It was one of the seven federated clubs in Washington to take the initiative in calling a convention to organize a State federation. The secretary sent out many letters in search of unknown clubs, and followed them up by copies of the *New Cycle*, which in time returned, like loyal soldiers, from long, hard

marches, tattered and worn; but the federation flag was planted on distant outposts wherever they had been.

At the first State biennial, at Olympia, standing on the very spot where the first woman's club of the Northwest sprang into life, was sounded the key-



MRS. A. J. ROSS,
First President and Honorary President
Cultus Club, Spokane, Wash.



CARRIE L. ALLEN,
Secretary Cultus Club,
Spokane, Wash.

note of the State federation with such power as sent it reverberating through the forests, around the waters of Puget Sound, Yakima, Walla Walla, Pullman, and, with true mountain spirit, sent the echo rolling back through the cañons of the "Great Divide."

The first president of Cultus was Mrs. A. J. Ross, who held the office from 1892 to 1894. The second president was Mrs. J. J. Brown, succeeded by Mrs. H. D. Crowe. The corresponding secretary from 1893 to 1896 was Miss Carrie L. Allen. At the election of that year Mrs. Ross was made honorary president.

The present officers (1897) are: President, Mrs. J. B. Blalock; vice-presidents, Mrs. Powell, Mrs. Graves; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Mariner; recording secretary, Mrs. G. T. Penn; treasurer, Mrs. A. K. McBroom.

The dues are four dollars per annum, payable quarterly.

The Everett Book Club was organized in 1894 by Mrs. Alice C. Baird, who served as president until 1897. Mrs. Baird was also elected vice-president of the State federation at its formation.

The primary object of the Book Club was to found a free public library.



MRS. ALICE C. BAIRD,
President Woman's Book Club, Everett, Wash.

To effect this a contribution of books was asked of federated clubs throughout the United States, and the result was upwards of one thousand volumes which were presented to the city for a public library.

During its brief existence, in addition to the library work, the club has aided in organizing a kindergarten association and in establishing two free kindergartens. It has aided the Everett Hospital, and was the medium through which a handsome donation was sent to Clara Barton for the Armenians.

Mrs. Baird possesses a most inspiring personality, and the Book Club preserves its literary character, and has grown to several times its original proportions

while executing a great deal of practical work.

There are four departments into which the work of the club is divided: literature, education and philanthropy, home and social economics.

Under these heads it has discussed "Immigration and Naturalization Laws," "The Sunny Side of Housekeeping," "What *United progression.*" "Would you Do for Everett if You Had the Power?" "The Development of American Literature," and many other equally interesting and suggestive topics. Among the mottos of its handsome year-book for 1896 was the following from Marcus Aurelius Antoninus:

"Give thyself time to learn something new and good."

And it is Mrs. Browning who supplies the concentric circles that form the emblem:

"With circles still widening, and ever ascendant,
In multi-form life to united progression."

The president succeeding Mrs. Baird is the former vice-president, Mrs. W. G. Swalwell; secretary, Mrs. C. W. Jones; librarian, Mrs. E. L. Bailey.

The membership is thirty-six, and the club is represented in both State and National federations.

Society of Literary Explorers, Port Angeles.—This society was founded January 9, 1894, by two women, Mrs. L. D. Stewart and Mrs. J. L. Worthiley. Its membership was limited to twenty, and its object, "*So many worlds; so much to do.*" "intellectual improvement through literary research." Its motto is, "So many worlds; so much to do." It joined

the General Federation in September, 1896, and adheres to its original purpose of literary exploration. Mrs. J. W. Troy has succeeded Mrs. H. C. Lutz as presiding officer. The nucleus of a very good library has been formed with Mrs. H. C. Miller as librarian.

The Woman's Club, of North Yakima, which was organized 1894, was the result of very earnest and long-continued efforts in that direction by one zealous woman, Mrs. Susanna Steimeg, whose death was a great loss. The club meets weekly, devoting one meeting each month to practical questions, the other three to literature and art.

The Woman's Reading Club, of Walla Walla, was started in 1894 by half a dozen women who met once a week to read current literature. After organizing, with a name and constitution, their basis of work broadened and became more original. Their programme for the year includes studies from American and English writers, and parliamentary drills. The motto of this little club suggests its work: "We all must read, you see, before we live."

At Hoquiam there is a little band of enthusiastic workers known as the **Woman's Literary Club**, which began its existence November 4, 1894. It is the result of informal meetings to review books. Mrs. Georgina Keath is its efficient president.

The St. Helena Club, of Chehalis, was organized in February, 1895, by Mrs. G. B. Robertson, with twelve charter members. Within the year it reached its limit of thirty, and the programmes indicate sincerity of purpose and earnest studious work in literature, art, science, and the vital questions of the day.

The Fortnightly Club was organized for the purpose of cultivating a more neighborly spirit among the ladies of Queen Anne Hill, though it has made for itself a place among the literary clubs of the city. Its work has been largely historical, though the laws of Washington relating to women and children have claimed part of its time. The club has always met at the home of Mrs. C. M. Sheafe, its organizer and only president.

The Woman's Industrial Club is a recent organization, dating from July, 1895. Its object, as stated, is mutual improvement, bettering of physical conditions, and the elevation of tastes.

Any self-supporting woman may become a member by signing the constitution and paying the dues, which are fifty cents yearly.

The president is elected every three months, and parliamentary drill is a feature. The presiding officer usually has quite as much dignity and as much knowledge of parliamentary methods as any trained club woman. Time is given to practice in elocution, and also to the discussion of current events, every side being vigorously taken. Thus far the members, with one exception, have been domestics doing household work for a living. The exception

is the founder, Mrs. Homer Hill, who is a member of the Woman's Century Club and publishes *Washington Women*, a paper devoted to club interests.

Several similar clubs have since been organized in Portland, Oregon, and in other towns of Washington.

In March, 1895, ten ladies at Centralia decided to organize a reading circle for study and mutual improvement. They first took up Tennyson's "Idyls of the King," and from this obtained their name, **Ladies of the Round Table**. The membership is limited to twenty, and they work along the lines of the original plan, reading from the best authors.

The Woman's Club, of Snohomish, was organized in September, 1896. A committee of ladies who had charge of the free reading-room had for some time been agitating the subject of a literary club, but lacked confidence in their ability to carry forward their proposed work.

Help and encouragement received from Mrs. Baird, of Everett, greatly aided a systematic organization, and the membership of twenty-five is in a most flourishing condition. Mrs. Frances White Ransome is the presiding officer.

Chapter A. P. E. O. came into existence September 22, 1896, and was organized by Mrs. Jennie Simpson-Moore. From the original seven charter members the club has grown to be the second largest in Seattle, and numbers among its members many of the most intellectual women of the city. The first two years' work consisted of papers and discussions on miscellaneous subjects. Last year Greek mythology, history, and literature were studied. The present year the club is devoting its time to the study of wood engraving and "A History of Our Own Times." Each year current events have formed a part of the programme. A characteristic of Chapter A is its harmony and enthusiasm. Mrs. Charlotte G. Dingley is the president of this club (1897). Chapter A enjoys the distinction of being the one club in the National Association to belong to the General Federation of Women's Clubs.

Washington State Federation.—The call for a convention of women's literary clubs to form a State federation was issued by the Aloha and Nesika "To increase light." Clubs of Tacoma, and signed by their presidents, Mrs. Ella K. Parsons, Mrs. N. E. Dennis, and Sarah Kendall, M.D., the State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation, on August 21, 1896. The convention was called for September 22d and 23d, in Tacoma.

Twenty-two clubs responded by their delegates and were called to order in Masonic Hall, Tacoma, by Mrs. Dennis, president of Nesika. Mrs. A. P. Foster, of the Woman's Book Club, of Everett, was made chairman, and Mrs. I. H. Coiner, of Nesika, secretary of the temporary organization. Mrs. Parsons, the president of Aloha, welcomed the delegates and extended to them

the hospitalities of the city. Miss Allen, of Cultus Club, Spokane, responded on behalf of the delegates. Following this, Dr. Sarah Kendall, of the Woman's Century Club, Seattle, gave a short address on State federation, the strength of united effort, and the progress to be made through organization.

Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes, of Spokane Sorosis, and Dr. Kendall, of Seattle, both officers in the General Federation, and Mrs. Baird, of Everett, the only delegate present who had attended the third biennial of the General Federation of Women's Clubs at Lansville, were invited to seats upon the platform.



DR. SARAH KENDALL,
Woman's Century Club, State Chairman of
Correspondence, G. F. W. C., Wash.



MRS. AMY P. STACY,
Aloha Club, Tacoma, Wash., President State
Federation

Mrs. Baird made the motion "That we, the women of Washington here assembled, do form a State federation of women's clubs." Mrs. Holmes, of Seattle, seconded this motion, and after some discussion it was carried unanimously.

The chair appointed as a Committee on Constitution Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, of Olympia; Mrs. Baird, Mrs. Jobes, Miss Allen, Mrs. Slauson, Mrs. Dennis, and Mrs. Parsons.

Reports of clubs were then called for. Literature, art, science, music, and practical questions of the day were shown to have received much attention. The Everett Book Club has been instrumental in giving to that city a public library; the Aloha Club has materially aided the Ferry Museum of Tacoma, and many others have been of great benefit in their immediate localities.

An adjournment was made until 9:30 the following morning. The

evening was occupied with a reception at the home of Mrs. Parsons, to delegates and visiting club members.

The first order of business on Wednesday morning was the report of the Constitution Committee, made by the chairman, Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart. After discussion and amendment it was adopted, and on motion of Mrs. Jobes the by-laws were left to the Board of Directors.

Nominations for officers were made from the floor, and resulted in the election of: President, Mrs. Amy P. S. Stacy, of Aloha Club, Tacoma; vice-presidents, Mrs. Alice C. Baird, of Woman's Book Club, Everett; Miss Carrie L. Allen, of Cultus Club, Spokane; recording secretary, Miss Frances Knapp, of Nineteenth Century Literary Club, Seattle; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Eva W. Gove, of Nesika Club, Tacoma; treasurer, Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, of Woman's Club, Olympia; auditor, Mrs. Grace Barrett Robertson, of St. Helen's Club, Chehalis; trustees, Mrs. Katherine H. Gilbert, of Woman's Club, North Yakima; Mrs. Kate Turner Holmes, of Woman's Century Club, Seattle.

The first meeting of the federation, as officially organized, took place at 3 in the afternoon, the president, Mrs. Stacy, in the chair. On behalf of Spokane Sorosis, Mrs. Jobes presented the State federation, through its president, with a gavel designed by Mrs. T. D. Gamble, made from the wood of an apple-tree planted by Dr. Marcus Whitman, of Walla Walla, and presented by Miss Rosine Edwards. In accordance with the request of the donors, the first meeting of the State Federation of Women's Clubs of Washington was called to order with this gavel.

The programme of the afternoon included papers on "Misdirected Charity," by Mrs. Stuart, of Olympia; "Clara Barton and the Work of the Red Cross Society," by Mrs. A. P. Foster, of Everett; and an address on the "General Federation of Women's Clubs," by Mrs. Esther Allen Jobes, of Spokane Sorosis. Mrs. M. B. Hogan, of Seattle, read an original federation poem, and music was furnished by the Ladies' Musical Club, of Tacoma.

Mrs. Jobes closed her address with a motion, seconded by Mrs. Drake, "That this State federation join the General Federation of Women's Clubs, subject to the action of the Board of Directors at their first regular meeting." Motion unanimously carried by a rising vote.

It was moved and carried that all clubs becoming members of the federation before the 1st of January, 1897, be considered charter members. It was also voted that the first regular convention of the federation be held in June, 1897, and Olympia was chosen as the place for the convention.

Curious coincidences were alluded to by Dr. Sarah Kendall, who said: "If the Washington State Federation of Women's Clubs were seeking a sign or number, the facts that the twenty-second State in the Union to federate,

represented by twenty-two clubs, met for the purpose of organization on the twenty-second day of the month; and that this State was by act of Congress virtually born on the twenty-second day of the month and named for our first great president, whose birthday also occurred on the twenty-second day of the month, would seem to claim for this number twenty-two, special recognition at the hands of the federation."

Moved and carried, that a committee be appointed to further the work outlined by Mrs. Foster in her paper on "Clara Barton and the Red Cross Society," and that Mrs. Foster be chairman of said committee. The chair appointed Mrs. Foster, Mrs. Jobes, and Dr. Kendall.

The list of clubs joining the State federation as foundation members were: Ladies of the Round Table, Centralia; St. Helen's Club, Chehalis; Woman's Book Club, Everett; What's-in-a-name? Club, Everett; Woman's Club, North Yakima; Woman's Club, Olympia; eight clubs of Seattle, viz: Estella Bachman Brokaw Club, Fortnightly Club, Kindergarten Club, Nineteenth Century Literary Club, P. E. O. Sisterhood, Wednesday P. M. Club, Woman's Century Club, Woman's Industrial Club; Woman's Club, Snohomish; Cultus Club and Spokane Sorosis, of Spokane; four clubs of Tacoma, viz.: Aloha Club, League for Political Education, Ladies' Musical Club, Nesika Club; Woman's Reading Club, of Walla Walla.

After the usual resolutions the federation adjourned to meet in June, at Olympia.

The first annual convention of the State Federation of Washington was called for June 22d and 23d, at Olympia. The attendance was large, and at 2 P. M. was called to order by Mrs. Stacy, of Tacoma, the president, and also the president of Aloha, one of the oldest clubs in the State.

A blue ribbon separated the delegates from the visitors, irreverently called the "goats." The roll-call was responded to by the representatives of thirty-three clubs, and a cordial welcome extended to them by Mrs. Stark, of the Woman's Club, of Olympia. The president, in responding, alluded to the severe illness of Mrs. Baird, and her absence in consequence. The reports conveyed facts in regard to club extension in small towns, the need of a reciprocity bureau, and the work of clubs in some of the States. Mrs. Coles, of Holdridge, Neb., made some remarks in regard to federation in her State, and created a pleasant impression. The president's address was a review of the work, and a tribute to the forces of the federation, especially to the teachers for their always helpful and practical suggestions.

She said in part: "What are we? Circles of women, meeting at stated times to compare results of study upon previously assigned topics; gathering treasures from literature, tracing the footsteps of history, looking into the fair face of art, wooing music, taking counsel of to-day about to-morrow's

opportunities. We discuss practical questions, economics, home decoration, the care and training of children, the betterment of schools, the improvement of civic conditions, the problems of ethics, and the thousand and one questions as vital to women as to men. The flippant charge can no longer be made that we 'care only for dress and amusement.'

"Clubs are necessarily altruistic. For the woman of greater culture must share her benefits with her listening, less-favored sister; and, as always, the most generous giver gets greatest good. Some of our clubs are already beneficially felt in their home towns. The Snohomish Woman's Club has lately opened a free reading-room, to which the town liberally contributes. The Olympia Woman's Club has a magazine and newspaper depot, accessible, free of charge, to Thurston county people. The Everett Woman's Book Club has presented a library of more than a thousand volumes to that city. The Kindergarten Club, of Seattle, has a fine library open to all kindergartners of that city and Tacoma. Our own Aloha Club has materially helped the Ferry Museum. The Seattle Century Club has been influential toward securing the passage of a State law looking to the protection of young girls. The musical and art clubs in all our cities are constantly educating and gratifying taste. In many unrecorded ways Washington women are quietly at work, for our clubs are both stimulating and directing right effort."

The evening programme drew a large audience. The papers represented different aspects of the educational question, followed by discussion; the speakers limited to two minutes. Mrs. Stuart, who is promptness itself, was made timekeeper, and dropped her gavel in the midst of the most interesting word. Mrs. Moore, of Seattle, made an address upon the "Aims and Methods of Club Work," and wisely urged that the talented should not be pushed and exploited to the exclusion of the less able and experienced; that the aim of a woman's club was not to develop leaders, but to enrich the lives of its members and develop the power of every one. "Industrial Education in Public Schools," "The Relation of Parents and Teachers," "Manual Training," and "The Kindergarten," were all represented in able papers which excited lively discussion. The evening was felt to have been profitably spent by both men and women.

The morning of Wednesday was given to a long discussion of the by-laws and the question as to the next place of meeting.

The session closed with the presentation of a souvenir coffee-spoon to each delegate by Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, the founder of the Woman's Club, of Olympia.

A fine literary and musical programme was arranged for the afternoon, in which the St. Cecilia Club, of Tacoma, participated. The most interesting paper of the entire session was upon "Child-Study in the Home," by Miss

Dewey, president of the Kindergarten Club, of Tacoma. When the State president called for discussion, a delegate rose and said: "I think we have all been too deeply touched to speak. Let us preserve the memory of this most suggestive and interesting address."

Mrs. Homer Hill, president of the Woman's Industrial Club, of Seattle, advocated the laying aside of all social differences in club work, and Mrs. Felt, of Tacoma, thought the influence of women could not be great so long as they were deprived of the money power. "Reciprocity in State Club Work" was the theme of a paper by Mrs. E. R. Prather, which received close attention.

A bureau of reciprocity was subsequently established, Mrs. Eva Gove, chairman (since succeeded by Mrs. Moore, of Everett).

A club extension committee was appointed as follows: Mrs. Amy P. S. Stacy, chairman; Dr. Sarah Kendall, Seattle; Mrs. Alice Baird, Everett; Miss Carrie L. Allen, Spokane; Mrs. Turrell, Tacoma.

"To increase light" was the motto adopted by the federation; the clover was chosen as the federation flower; green and white, as its colors. "The Four-Leaf Clover," by Ella Higginson, was adopted as a federation poem.

In the line of study as adopted by the Washington women's clubs, literature and history predominate. Some clubs have adopted department methods, others special work—kindergartens and the like.

The direction the work is taking is in the extension of education and the creation of public libraries.

The Woman's Century Club, of Seattle, has accomplished some legislative work; two of their three bills have become laws.

Forty clubs have federated. The Club Extension Committee is preparing to do active work, and the outlook for the Washington State Federation is promising.

A motion to meet annually instead of biennially prevailed, and Spokane was selected as the place for the next convention, to be held in June, 1898.

The convention closed with a reception on the evening of the 23d at Hotel Olympia, in which citizens and the hostess club vied with each other in extending most cordial welcome to visitors.

The officers of the State federation (1898) are: president, Mrs. A. P. S. Stacy; vice-president, Mrs. E. S. Ennis, Snohomish; second vice-president, Miss C. L. Allen, Spokane; recording secretary, Miss F. Knapp, Seattle; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. W. Gove, Tacoma; treasurer, Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, Olympia; auditor, Mrs. G. B. Robertson, Chehalis.

The following delegates were elected to attend the biennial convention, to be held in Denver in June, 1898: Mrs. A. H. H. Stuart, Mrs. E. Fullmer, Mrs. Homer Hill, and Mrs. A. B. Bull.

The president of the Washington State Federation, Mrs. A. P. S. Stacy, of Tacoma, belongs to the old Sewall family, of Maine.

Although her school life was spent in North Granville, N. J., her marriage in 1865 fixed her home in Iowa for twenty-three years, when with her husband she removed to Tacoma, Wash. Mrs. Stacy is a fine speaker, a woman of ripe culture, and fitted to lead a new movement. Honors with her are unsought; she only desires opportunities to serve.

There are now thirty-four clubs in the Washington State Federation. To this number Seattle contributes nine; Tacoma, seven; Spokane, five; Everett, two; and eleven other towns, one each. There is no club that has yet reached the one hundred mark in membership. The largest is Aloha, with sixty members. Spokane Sorosis comes next with between fifty and sixty. The smallest federated club is Nesika, with nineteen members.

Woman's Club Movement in Wisconsin

WISCONSIN, while not associated with the birth of the woman's club movement, claims to be one of the pioneer States in giving it an impetus, its first club, the Clio, of Sparta, having been organized in 1871; the Friends in Council, of Berlin, in 1873; and the Milwaukee Art and Science Class, in 1874; but the idea, although thus rooted, did not make rapid progress.

In the year 1876, women, for the first time, made their appearance in Wisconsin as lecturers. Mary A. Livermore, Julia Ward Howe, and others familiarized the public mind with the appearance of women upon the platform. At the same time there were progressive women in the State who had become acquainted with the work of women's clubs at the East, and were only waiting for the proper time to develop it in their own communities.

Mrs. James S. Peck, wife of a governor of Wisconsin, was one of these, and was one of the foundation members of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin, the organization of which at Milwaukee was speedily followed by the formation of the Shakespeare Club, of Green Bay, the Oshkosh Study Class, the Ladies' Literary Club, of Wausau, and the Ladies' Educational Club, of Ripon. The club impulse thus received a stimulus which has since promoted a steady growth.

There are now about one hundred and fifty clubs in Wisconsin, a large majority of them small and with a limited membership. This was necessary in the days when the older clubs were organized, as there were few suitable places of meeting open to them, and, being obliged to assemble at the homes of the members, they were forced of necessity to restrict their numbers. They naturally became study-classes and have accomplished wonders in developing the intellectual life of the places where they are located. The younger clubs are largely department clubs and are thoroughly up to date. They open their doors more widely, they assimilate new conditions less timidly, and their methods compare most favorably with those adopted by the prominent clubs of other States. But it is probably safe to assert that fully three-fourths of the clubs of Wisconsin are distinctively literary in character. These clubs have paved the pathway for their younger sisters and made their more rapid progress possible. There are towns in the State where teachers in the public schools have declared it impossible to estimate the influence

upon their pupils of the literary tone furnished by the study-clubs, and where the entire social atmosphere has been elevated by them, for, to a great extent, these clubs are becoming a medium of social intercourse, and thus a higher standard of social life is created.

While the general trend of the club movement in the State has been toward the formation of study-classes, the effective interest of Wisconsin club women in educational matters deserves more than a passing mention. Attention is called to the flourishing library established and managed by the Woman's Club, of Mineral Point; to the library at Racine, also owing its existence to the Woman's Club; to the Token Creek library, conducted by a woman's club; to the energy with which the Milwaukee College Endowment Association is working for the endowment of one or more professorships in Milwaukee Downer College; to the Woman's School Alliance, of Milwaukee, devoted to the elevation of the standard of school work; and to the Beloit City Federation of Clubs, which has secured a city library and wields a powerful influence in educational matters. Many of the foremost clubs—as the Woman's Club, of Madison; the Woman's Club, of Eau Claire; the Woman's Club, of Green Bay; the Woman's Club, of Stevens Point; and the Woman's Alliance, of Fond du Lac—have departments of education that are becoming a potent force in the adjacent communities.

Another cause for congratulation is the fact that a number of Wisconsin clubs make it their pleasure to provide for the men of their vicinages. In some clubs they are associate members and take part in literary efforts, while other clubs are gladdened by their presence at social functions. This points to a future when man and woman “these twain upon the skirts of time sit, side by side, full summ'd in all their powers, dispensing harvest, sowing the-to-be.”



MRS. LUCY E. MORRIS,
President of the Wisconsin Federation of
Women's Clubs

STATE FEDERATION

Federation sentiment has been a plant of slow growth in Wisconsin, requiring the most careful nurture. The State has now twelve clubs in the General Federation: the Athena, of Berlin; the Leisure Hour, of Oshkosh; the Monday Club, of Ashland; the Milwaukee College Endowment Association; the Woman's Club, of West Superior; the Woman's Club, of Madison; the Woman's Club, of Eau Claire; the Woman's Club, of Racine,

the Woman's Club, of Stevens Point; the Monday Club, of Stevens Point; the Woman's Literary Club, of Evansville; and the Woman's Club, of Monroe. For many months a vigorous effort was made to induce the clubs of the State to unite in a State federation, and the outlay of time, persistence, and persuasive force was at last rewarded by the assembling at Milwaukee, in October, 1896, of delegates from sixty-five clubs for consultation regarding the proposed union. The meeting was held by invitation and under the auspices of the Milwaukee College Endowment Association, and was successful in all respects, Wisconsin coming into line with sixty-nine federated clubs. The officers of the State Federation are: President,

Mrs. Charles S. Morris, of Berlin; first vice-president, Mrs. Hannah R. Vedder, of Milwaukee; corresponding secretary, Mrs. E. H. Neville, of Green Bay; recording secretary, Mrs. W. K. Galloway, of Eau Claire; auditor, Mrs. John W. Paville Appleton; treasurer, Mrs. Martha Wentworth Hopper, of Racine;



MRS. MARTHA WENTWORTH HOPPER,
Treasurer of the Wisconsin Federation



MRS. A. C. NEVILLE,
First Corresponding Secretary of the Wisconsin Federation
of Women's Clubs

and in addition, a vice-president from each congressional district. All are club women of many years' experience and bring to the State federation, in addition to native ability, the results of carefully systematized methods. The committees on educational and library work are composed of women who have achieved distinction in their relative fields of labor, and it is confidently believed that the State federation is to inaugurate a new era for the club women of Wisconsin, when each, feeling the expanding influence of association with obligation, will rejoice to say in the words of Tennyson, "I am a part of all that I have met."

L. E. M.

The past work of the president of the Wisconsin State Federation, Mrs. Lucy E. Morris, furnished an

admirable training for the new field of federated club effort. She was for fourteen years president of two well-known clubs, the Athena and the Friends in Council. She filled most creditably the office of State chairman of the General Federation of Women's Clubs and thus acquired an extensive knowledge of the needs of the clubs of the State. She possesses executive ability of a marked character, and is a recognized factor in any cause that engages her attention. She is a woman of high ideals, which she never fails to impress upon those with whom she is brought in contact, and her influence is strengthened by a fine personality.

The first annual convention of the State federation took place on November 10 and 11, 1897, at Oshkosh, by invitation of six women's clubs of that city,—the Study Class, the Clio Class, the Leisure Hour Club, the Woman's Reading Club, the Twentieth Century Club, and the Current Topics Club.

Mrs. W. K. Galloway, of Eau Claire, was chairman of the Programme Committee, assisted by Mrs. W. S. Main, of Madison, and Mrs. T. Youmans, of Waukesha. The headquarters were the parlors of Hotel Ahearn, but the meetings were held in the First Presbyterian Church.

Although this was the first annual meeting, the committees in charge had done excellent work, and the programme exhibited the result of careful organization and an experience of what is most valuable to club women to bring together upon such an occasion. A club exhibit was one of the features of the convention, and in connection with this a Calendar Exchange furnished a fine opportunity for reciprocal interchange of year-books throughout the State.

The address of welcome was made by Miss Magee, of the Leisure Hour Club, of Oshkosh; the response and address by the president, Mrs. Morris.

The reports of secretaries and of the chairman of Committee on Credentials, Mrs. Finney, were most gratifying. They exhibited a growth destined to be permanent and an impulse given to club work at once strong and elevating.

The number of clubs in the federation had grown to seventy-five, the majority represented by delegates. These clubs represent forty towns: Milwaukee leading with nine club organizations; Darlington, seven; Berlin and Oshkosh, both five; Beloit and Green Bay, each three; Appleton, Belmont, Madison, Stevens Point, and Waukesha, two; and thirty-three towns or villages, one each. Beloit's three organizations includes one city federation.

The reports of the ten district vice-presidents followed the reports of the general officers, and completed the morning's work.

In the afternoon the report of the Educational Committee was followed by a paper on "Child Study and Its Relation to Education," by Mrs. W. P.

Allen, of Madison; "Art in the Public Schools," by Miss M. E. Tanner, of Stevens Point. There was an exhibit of Oshkosh school work in connection with a paper on "Industrial Training," by Mrs. Mears, of Fond du Lac. The Madison Housekeepers' League reported through its president, Mrs. W. D. McCue; and "A Plea for the Cook Book" was made by Mrs. Kendall Adams, of Madison.

The music was furnished by Mrs. McLenegan, of Milwaukee, and Mrs. A. L. Buell, of the Musical Club of Berlin.

In the evening a reception was given by the Oshkosh clubs to the delegates and guests.

The morning of Thursday was given to the usual amendments to the constitution, followed by the reports of the Library Committee, through its chairman, Mrs. E. E. Vaughn, and of the Reciprocity Bureau, Mrs. A. C. Neville.

"Library Interests" in Wisconsin were well represented by Miss L. E. Stearns, secretary of the Wisconsin Free Library Commission. Miss Schreiber, of the Normal School, Milwaukee, gave a paper, "What Shall Children Read?" followed by the report of the State chairman of correspondence for the General Federation, Miss Hilbert.

The "symposium" upon women's clubs in the afternoon was introduced by studies of Chopin and Vogrisch by Mrs. Hoffman, the president of the Monday Musical, Milwaukee. The Literary Club, Department Club, Art Club, and Musical Club, were represented in ten-minute addresses by Mrs. G. P. Merrill, Ashland; Mrs. Winfield Smith, of the College Endowment Association, Milwaukee; Mrs. Davies, Oshkosh, and others. These papers were followed by general discussion, closing an interesting session.

Three important addresses were reserved for the evening meeting, to which gentlemen were invited. These were "The Relation of the New Education in Music to Life," by Mrs. John Vance Cheney, of Chicago; "The



MRS. CHARLES KENDALL ADAMS, MADISON

Club Woman as Mother," by Mrs. W. H. Upham, Marshfield; and a closing address by Mrs. Henrotin, the president of the General Federation.

A report of the Committee on Resolutions completed the external work of an interesting and valuable series of associated gatherings, marking most significantly the first mile-stone in the progress of the Wisconsin State Federation.

The officers were all reëlected, and so were the district vice-presidents.

The standing committees are: Library, Mrs. E. E. Vaughn, Ashland, chairman; upon Education, Mrs. S. L. Graves, Milwaukee; Reciprocity Bureau, Mrs. A. C. Neville, Green Bay.

The district vice-presidents constitute a sub-committee for the promotion of library interests.

Mrs. Morris, the State president, has been appointed by Governor Scofield a member of the State Library Commission, and the women's clubs of Wisconsin may be expected to do good work in advancing the library interests of that State.

Friends in Council, of Berlin, was born July 19, 1873. The organization was suggested by, and may properly be considered an outgrowth of, the Friends in Council of Quincy, Ill. The Quincy club, at the celebration of its twenty-fifth anniversary, February 16, 1894, reported being in communication with thirteen organizations of the same name, representing seven States. The aim of the Berlin club was duly set forth in the following statement: "We, the subscribers, unite in a society to be known as Friends in Council; our object, to consider the conduct of life in all its relations, endeavoring to answer the question, How to live?"

During the early years the duties of women formed favorite subjects for discussion; for it must not be forgotten that women's clubs were still an innovation, and in the early seventies had not won popular approval.

The club grew slowly, and did not reach its limit of twenty-five until eight years had passed. Still, it endeavored to be useful. Under its auspices lectures were given to the public by a number of prominent people, men as well as women. During these early years a larger part was taken in active affairs than has been the later policy. In 1879 it took the Chautauqua course; the completion of which, being the date of the tenth anniversary, 1883, was made the occasion of a banquet and reception at the home of Mrs. Morris. Following the completion of the Chautauqua course, one year was given to the history of art, and one to the study of France, as planned by a committee.

The work was done by the members, each one preparing a paper on the divisions of the subject assigned her. The years up to 1890 were devoted to

the study of foreign countries; 1891, to the history of America. The club then entered upon a line of work to which all the preceding years of research had been a preparation,—the study of the best in literature.

Since its tenth anniversary the club celebrates every successive birthday, and in 1889 it responded to the invitation of the Quincy club by a sympathetic and "coöperative" reception. The one hundredth anniversary of Washington's inauguration was signalized by an entertainment, at which a patriotic order of exercises was carried out, a modern Martha Washington presiding over them.

Four presidents have been chosen during the past fifteen years: Mrs. Morris, who served from 1883 to 1890; Mrs. Wright, president for two years; Mrs. Sears, elected in 1892, and reelected until succeeded by Mrs. Dodson in 1896.

"India" has furnished the topic for 1896-97, and has been found absorbingly interesting.

The divisions of the subject suggest the historic "wealth of the Indies," and are most inspiring. The work is by papers prepared by members, and general discussion.

Dr. H. M. Dodson, in response to the toast, "The Higher Education," at the twentieth anniversary banquet, concluded with these words: "I congratulate you, of this society, upon the work you have done. You have changed the whole thought of Berlin from gossip and frivolous tales to a love of real knowledge and useful lives. You have advanced the mental and moral character of every man in town. For men are often only what women make them; and you have made of yourselves educated and intelligent women. You have done noble work for the higher education."

The officers (1897) are: president, Mrs. E. Dodson; vice-president, Mrs. Laing; recording secretary, Mrs. Sarah Macnish; corresponding secretary, Mrs. Emma McKinney; treasurer, Mrs. L. S. Wright.

The Woman's Club, of Wisconsin, is well known throughout the United States. It was founded in the same year as the New Century Club, of Philadelphia, 1876, and has taken important rank, not only from age, size, and methods, but from its membership, which has included some of the most distinguished women in the State, and also because it originated the first woman's club building in the State, the plan of which developed not only a centre for the club life, but of educational importance in the community.

The limit of membership is two hundred, always full. The literary work for years was assigned to committees in art, literature, education, science, and social life.

The programmes represented these various subjects, but there was no continuous course of study or attempt at class work.



THE ATHENÆUM, MILWAUKEE

During the World's Fair, the club offered a prize of five hundred dollars to the Wisconsin woman who should display the greatest talent in sculpture and painting, and awarded the prize to Miss Mears, of Oshkosh, for her statue of "Genius" exhibited in the Wisconsin State building. The money was used by Miss Mears for study in the Art League, of New York, under the instructions of St. Gaudens.

The great event in the history of the club was, of course, the building of a club-house, the "Athenæum."

A meeting of the directors of the Woman's Club was held June, 1886, in the interest of securing a permanent home. The plan of forming a stock company was mentioned, but not developed until several similar meetings had been held and an investigation made as to ways and means. It was finally decided that, as a building for the sole use of the club could yield no return as interest on the amount invested, a larger building, to include a hall or assembly-room as a means of revenue, would be required, and this suggestion materially aided the development of the stock company plan. This was finally organized on an independent footing, the basis of coöperation being a common interest in the success of the enterprise, the payment of a rent by the club to the stock company, and its permanent occupation of the "club rooms" projected in the building.

The president of the club at this time was Mrs. James S. Peck, the wife

of the then governor of the State, and a woman of zeal and enthusiasm in club work. The stock company as at first formed consisted of a majority of the club members, but taking stock was not obligatory upon them. On September 7th, the name "The Athenæum" was adopted, and a committee on incorporation appointed. "At this point," says the historian, "the history of the Athenæum emerges from that of the Woman's Club, of Wisconsin; from which, however, it is a direct outgrowth, and always to be so considered."

The object of the enterprise, as stated in the articles of incorporation,



PLATFORM OF THE AUDITORIUM OF THE ATHENÆUM, MILWAUKEE, WIS.

are, "for the purpose of promoting the best practical methods for securing the educational, industrial, and social advancement of women; and as a centre for literary, scientific, and musical culture in the city of Milwaukee; and for purchasing such real estate as may be necessary or convenient for the lawful or proper use of the members of said corporation, and erecting a building thereon; and for the purpose of establishing, furnishing, equipping, and managing the said building as may be deemed expedient." The financial statement read: "The capital stock of said corporation shall be twenty-five thousand dollars, divided into one thousand shares of twenty-five dollars each."

These articles were signed October 5, 1886; a stockholders' meeting fol-

lowed, more than half of the capital stock being represented. Fifteen directors were elected, as follows: one year, Mrs. Thomas A. Green, Mrs. H. H. Camp, Mrs. B. K. Miller, Mrs. T. A. Chapman, Mrs. J. C. Rickertson; two years, Mrs. William H. Metcalf, Mrs. Henry H. Button, Mrs. John L. Mitchell, Mrs. Solon Marks, Mrs. S. A. Field; three years, Mrs. John Hiles, Mrs. William E. Cramer, Mrs. J. G. Flint, Mrs. William G. Fitch, Mrs. James S. Peck.

The membership of the Woman's Club includes many brilliant women, and the work has always been of a broad, high character, with free discussion pertinent to the subject, and strengthened by all the forces that wit and trained intelligence can bring to bear upon it.

Its local influence and reputation are well shown in the number of clubs that have, since its formation, been organized in Milwaukee, and that now lead numerically in the State federation.

The Woman's Club, of Wisconsin, has well sustained the prestige of its beginning in the annals of club development.

The Milwaukee College Endowment Association was founded in December, 1890, by several women who desired to restore its failing fortunes and raise its character to the ideal standard entertained for it by its founder, Mary Mortimer, and at the same time place it in the front rank of women's colleges. The women most interested in this work and the active promoters of the association were Mrs. Charles R. Kingsley, wife of the president of the college at that time; Mrs. Winfield Smith, Mrs. J. H. Warner, Mrs. W. G. Fitch, Mrs. James S. Peck, Mrs. H. R. Vedder, Mrs. J. G. Flanders, Miss Hilbert, and Mrs. O. N. Robertson.

To stir the stream of enthusiasm and keep the college constantly in mind, intellectual and what may be called club features were developed by the association, which proved successful in many ways. Not only was sentiment turned into tides, but the women of the city made a rally round one of the first American colleges for women, and the intellectual influence was felt throughout the community.

The department work pursued makes it almost a university, its scope is so broad and its aims so high; while the presence of lecturers of national and even international reputation, under the auspices of this association of women, has produced a marked effect. As a club it has now become a power in the State. This power was augmented by the issue of an invitation to all the clubs in the State pursuing lines of intellectual culture, to meet in Milwaukee under its auspices, and form a State federation. Over one hundred delegates responded, representing nearly sixty clubs, while many club women attended as guests.

The Endowment Association became a member of the General Federa-

tion previous to the biennial, in 1894; and has maintained its membership, unique in Milwaukee.

In 1895 the association was partly instrumental in effecting the union of two Wisconsin colleges, the Milwaukee College and Downer College, of Fox Lake. This made one large and strong college out of two small ones, to the great advantage of the women students.

The association aided the enlarged work by placing at the disposal of the combined college several thousand dollars to be used for its benefit.

The club work is done in sections, scientific, literary, and economic.

It has also classes, which vary from year to year, but are under the auspices of one or other of the sections.

A class in biblical literature was added in 1896, of which Mrs. H. R. Vedder is the leader.

Practically the work brings a university within the reach of all women, and renders the association the most advanced of clubs, while never forgetting its primary purpose of college endowment.

The color used in decoration is lavender, which is that of the college. The president is Mrs. James G. Flanders; the secretary, Miss Lilian Mallory.

The Athena Club, of Berlin, was organized January 4, 1890. It was incorporated in 1892, and joined the General Federation in 1893. Its earliest years were given to the study of history by periods.

In association with Shakespeare's historical plays, both Roman and English, they used also the legendary dramas which served to indicate manners, customs, condition of the people, and ethical ideas.

Of the ten English historical plays, direct connection is preserved in eight, and gaps were supplied by means of connected historical lessons. The plan pursued was the following: Beginning with early Britain, points of interest concerning the first inhabitants were supplemented by astrological research, and illustrated by the tragedy of "King Lear." The era of Roman occupation was accompanied by a study of "Cymbeline," the Saxon and Danish periods by Tennyson's "Idylls of the King," his drama of "Harold," and the tragedy of "Macbeth."

The Norman period was carefully reviewed, as also that of the early Plantagenets, the novels of Scott bearing upon the Crusades, and Shakespeare's "King John" taken in conjunction.

Miss Porter's "Scottish Chiefs" and Chaucer's "Canterbury Tales" were read also at this time.

Beginning with "Richard II," the plays of Shakespeare present an unbroken sequence for more than a century, and include the dramas of "Henry IV," "Henry V," the trilogy of "Henry VI," and "Richard III;" altogether forming an admirable basis for historical work.

The first part of Henry VI was compared with Schiller's "Die Jungfrau von Orleans," and, to illustrate the character of Warwick, the "king-maker," Bulwer's "Last of the Barons."

The "Wars of the Roses" were signalized by a rose day. The Temple Garden scene was read, large trays of red and white roses were in evidence, and each member was requested to wear a rose of her color, and be prepared to give the reason for the choice.

The Tudor epoch was illustrated by Shakespeare's "Henry VIII," Tennyson's "Queen Mary," Scott's "Kenilworth," and Schiller's "Maria Stuart." These studies were not prosecuted for a mere accumulation of facts, but rather as a groundwork for character lessons, the club finding in the plays of Shakespeare abundant opportunity for the survey of lofty principles and the cultivation of flowers of fancy.

The afternoon meetings are now given to a comparative study of literature, arranged with reference to some central thought, around which the studies are grouped and to which they relate, often with a view to the portrayal of the opinions of writers of a period upon the general subject.

As the scheme of study requires much thoughtful preparation, it is placed in charge of a leader elected by the class, who is thoroughly conversant with her topic.

A department of Current Events is conducted by each member in turn. For this few papers are prepared, the method being oral and conversational. At certain intervals there is a review day. In this all the members participate, each one being required to speak of that part of the work which has most appealed to her. This is found to deepen the impression and furnish a stimulus both intellectual and spiritual.

The Athena has two annual fête days. One is the birthday of Shakespeare, the other "Founder's" day. Both are celebrated with great enthusiasm, and with many original ideas.

On "Founder's" day the tutelary divinity appears, and is hailed with delight. The goddess is always the subject of flattering homage in rhyme, and distributes her gifts impartially to all the members of Athena.

The regular meetings are held on alternate Saturday afternoons from October to July. In addition, during the winter season, monthly social and literary receptions take place, to which gentlemen are invited. These form the associate membership. The literary exercises are preceded by an informal supper, very social and homelike, and always anticipated with pleasure by both men and women.

The club has grown into the conviction that moral as well as intellectual inspiration is derived from serious, conscientious research and literary study. It believes, with Shakespeare, that

"the end of study is indeed to know
Things hid and barred . . . from common sense.
Ay, that is study's god-like recompense."

L. E. M.

The Woman's Club, of West Superior, was organized in 1893. It joined the General Federation in 1894, and became a charter member of the State federation at its formation.

It does not follow a continued course of study, but its literary work is very thorough and is done in the fields of history and biography, art from the literary standpoint, and science and education.

In historic study it devotes great attention to research by maps, and



MRS. W. T. ROGERS,
President of Woman's Club, West Superior, Wis.



MRS. I. L. LENROOT,
First Councilor of Woman's Club, West Superior, Wis.

in literature, to the classics. In art it has studied the various schools of architecture, and in biography the great personages in connection with the history and literature of the period under consideration.

It obtains each year, in connection with its work, a course of University Extension lectures, and has responded warmly to the recommendations made by the educational section of the General Federation at the last biennial meeting.

Its work for the present year in this direction is with the object of effecting improvement in the State system of public school education. The meetings are weekly, and fine calendars are printed, containing a very good synopsis of the work. This has covered German history and Teutonic

religion; in literature, the Niebelungen Lied, and Wagner as reformer, poet, and composer; and including the great German cathedrals, feudalism in Germany, and the origin of knighthood.

Superior has a very good public library, from which all reference books can be obtained.

The president is Mrs. W. T. Rogers; the meetings are held weekly. The membership is about seventy-five women, the history department gathering the majority, art ranking next in the interest of the members, and literature obtaining the suffrages of all. The government is in the hands of the general officers and five councilors, of whom Mrs. I. L. Lenroot is the first. She is also the chairman of the Social Committee.

The Woman's Club, of Madison, is comparatively recent. It was formed on the same plan as the Woman's Club of Wisconsin in Milwaukee, putting its limit of membership at one hundred and fifty. The originator was Miss Mary L. Atwood, who was its president from its organization in February, 1893, until she was succeeded by Mrs. W. S. Main in 1896. Associated with Miss Atwood was Mrs. F. W. Hoyt, who was made the first secretary.



MISS MARY LOUISA ATWOOD,
Originator of the Woman's Club, Madison

The members of the club include many of the leaders of the social, artistic, and literary life of Madison. The atmosphere of a university town—surcharged with the ozone emanating from the intellectual and political forces concentrated at a State capital—is particularly favorable to the formation of a club “for the development of intellectual life,” and as “a centre of literary, scientific, and musical culture.”

There is a fine social life in connection with the literary work, and much reciprocal hospitality, intellectual and social, between the clubs of Madison, Milwaukee, and the leading clubs of Chicago, Ill.

Many entertainments are given, and such women as Miss Julia Marlowe,



REPRESENTATIVES OF THE WOMAN'S CLUB OF MADISON, WIS.

MRS. WILLET S. MAIN, President	
MRS. JNO. C. SPOONER	MRS. WM. H. UPHAM
MRS. F. W. HOYT	MRS. LUCIUS FAIRCHILD

Miss Kate Field, and the wife of ex-Governor Peck, who was for years the president of the Woman's Club of Wisconsin, have been the recipients of attention.

Among the members and active promoters of the best interests of the club are Mrs. Charles Kendall Adams, who assisted in its organization and was made a vice-president. Mrs. Adams, now the wife of the president of the University of Wisconsin, was formerly well known as the wife of the publisher, Mr. A. S. Barnes, of New York. Her home was always a centre of the intellectual and religious life of the community in which she lived. As a writer and Shakespearan student she is now a national possession.

The Woman's Club has had the wives of several governors of the State as members.

Mrs. Lucius Fairchild, whose husband was six years consul in Paris and also United States minister to Spain, brought to the club, in addition to a charming personality, many experiences and reminiscences that were of positive value as well as a delight to the members.

Mrs. W. H. Upham is a student of natural history, and her published papers on the birds of Wisconsin, and her trained ability, would have made her a woman of mark, even if she had not been the wife of the governor of the State.

Mrs. W. F. Vilas was with her husband during some stirring scenes in the Civil War, when he commanded a regiment. Afterwards, as the wife of the Postmaster-General under President Cleveland, and later senator from Wisconsin, absence limited her club attendance, but added to the breadth of her social experience.

In 1896 the committees were organized into departments, and classes were instituted.

The chairman of the department in literature, Mrs. Daniells, was fortunate in having as a co-worker Mrs. Charles Kendall Adams, who directed a class in the study of Shakespeare. Mrs. Adams proved an ideal leader, who by helpful suggestions stimulated the class to fresh research.

In the musical section the study of Wagner was taken up under the guidance of Miss Alice Regan, one of the leading musicians of Madison.

Mrs. A. R. Sheldon, M.A., was the originator and leader in class work in English literature, history, and art in Wisconsin. She has regularly about three hundred women in her classes in Madison, Milwaukee, and Kenosha.

These classes are recognized as an important factor in the cultivation of a taste for study in the State.

The Educational Committee, directed by its chairman, Mrs. C. E. Buell, has been very active, and much more is known of the workings of the school

system of the State, of manual training, travelling libraries, and other educational movements than before the organization of this department.

In the department of philanthropy the work naturally took a practical turn, and much good was done under the judicious management of Mrs. William F. Allen. With the assistance of their teachers, the children of the primary schools and free kindergartens of the city were supplied with much needed clothing, and in this unostentatious way many families were materially aided in solving the problem of living. Among the active members is Mrs. R. La Follette, who was the first woman to graduate from the State University Law School. She has since been in partnership with her husband, and conducted the practice of the firm during his absence as a member of Congress for two terms. Mrs. Aubertine W. Moore was the colleague of Prof. Rasmus B. Anderson in his Scandinavian work, and is well known as a musician of a high order, as well as a linguist and writer of ability.

Mrs. Spooner, who was a leader in Washington society when her husband was senator, is a fine vocalist, and her talent is always at the service of the club.

Mrs. Helen Campbell, the lecturer for a time on household economics at the University of Wisconsin, has given some interesting talks to the club.

Mrs. R. G. Thwaites, who was the second secretary of the Woman's Club, is a delightful dispenser of its hospitalities. She also frequently contributes to the literary work.

Mrs. W. S. Main, who succeeded Miss Atwood as the president of the club, still remains (1897) its presiding officer, and Miss Louise Philips, a writer of reputation, the accomplished secretary.

The Tuesday Club, of Fort Atkinson, was organized in 1880. It has been devoted to historical study and studies in literature. Its organization is simple, but its work has been excellent, and its printed outlines show a very comprehensive and thoughtful division of its leading subject.

Mrs. Stair, Mrs. Royce, and Mrs. Caswell have been among its presidents, and there is a programme committee of five members elected every year with the general officers. At intervals a musical programme is given, usually to illustrate the music of a period or country. The studies in literature have included the drama before Shakespeare's time, selected plays of Shakespeare, and modern writers both English and American.

Ashland's Monday Club has a membership of forty, and history and current events make up its programme. It has a club room in the Vaughn Library building and the advantage of a good reference library. The club belongs to the General Federation, and Mrs. E. Vaughn, who presented the public library to the city, was its originator and first president.

Mrs. Vaughn is also the chairman of the Library Committee of the State federation.

The Wednesday Club, of Appleton, was organized in 1881, and includes in its membership some of the faculty of Lawrence University and resident alumnae. It is limited to twenty and follows a course in general literature.



MRS. M. E. STANSBURY,
Author of "How he Saved St. Michaels"

Among its members is Mrs. Mary A. Stansbury, author of "How he Saved St. Michael's." This poem is probably the one most familiar to the public, but its gifted author has written many others of unusual merit. The Reading Club is limited to fifteen members and has confined itself to American authors. The Clio Club admits twenty, and has taken Bryce's "American Commonwealth" as a basis of study.

La Crosse has several clubs, the **Woman's Club**, the only one that has joined the State federation, and of which Mrs. E. M. Kendall is president; and the **Art Class**, which has given the history of art with the aid of a stereopticon. It has a large, enthusiastic, and influential membership. There are also several small literary and study clubs.

Eau Claire's **Woman's Club** takes up its work seriously. It has

discussed "Evolution" in its broadest sense. The programme consists of an address of thirty or forty minutes, followed by discussion.

Fond du Lac is a city of clubs. **The Knowledge Seekers**, twelve in number, take history as a basis of study. Time has been devoted to early discoveries in America, and American history, with discussion of current events and literature. **The Tourists' Club**, organized in 1880, planned an extensive tour. They obtained all the information in regard to routes, letters of credit, necessary in an actual trip, and took their way through England, Scotland, France, Italy, Egypt, Palestine, Greece, and Switzerland, and completed their long journey by a trip up the Rhine and through Belgium. They have also studied the history, literature, and art of the countries through which they passed. Much credit is given to the leader, Mrs. Babcock, for the success of the club.

The Ramblers, another group of twelve, have followed the line of

Columbus's explorations, have studied the conquest of Mexico, and sailed along the coast of South America, making numerous short trips into the interior. The Desmit Club, limited to ten, confines its study to the dramas of Shakespeare.

The Shakespeare Club, of Green Bay, was organized in 1877. The first five years were devoted to a study of Shakespeare, reading with a cast of characters. Later, literary criticism, the Iliad, English literature, Dante and Browning, English and French history, and modern painters have been studied. The club retains its name, and connects itself with its earlier work by making its anniversaries Shakespearean.

The Janesville Woman's Club was organized in 1877 as an art class. After a study of art and architecture for several years, it then reorganized with a limited membership of thirty, and made the study of history and literature the basis of its work.

The Kenosha Woman's Club has a membership of sixty and a miscellaneous programme. "The Revolt of the Daughters," "Modern Art," and "Fiske's Destiny of Man," are some of the topics. It has also given a course of art lectures.

The Leisure Hour Club, of Oshkosh, was organized in 1886, and is limited to twenty members. Its study is the history of art. The study has been very earnest, sincere, and comprehensive. Its leader is Miss Harriet Magee. It has studied the art of Greece, Italy, France, Germany, Spain, and England; and it is a member of both the General and State federations. It made a beautiful application of its art study at one of its festivals given at the home of a member. The arrangement and decorations of the house were Grecian, as was the attire of the members. The menu was strictly antique. The toasts were given according to the Athenian custom, and the whole entertainment was carried out with genuine spirit and enthusiasm.

There are two study clubs in Oshkosh, one of which has devoted time to French history and literature; and the **Reading Club**, which studies in connection with the University Extension Course, and has done some serious work.

Reedsburg's Literary Club was originally the "ideal" club for men and women, but has receded from that position, and become a club for women only.

The Woman's Reading Club, of Mineral Point, was organized in December, 1894. It has opened a well-furnished reading-room supplied with papers and magazines, and a public library, which began with one thousand well-selected volumes, including many for reference. It has a membership of fifty women, and fine programmes in literature and art as a basis of study.

Sparta has many small study and literary clubs. The oldest, **Cllo**, dates

from 1871, and was the first formed in the State. It still retains four of its five original members; the limit is eight. The **Aldine** was founded in 1880, others more recently. The **Woman's Club**, of Lake Mills, was organized in 1893. Its membership is fifty-seven, limited to sixty. History and literature form its basis of work, and an original paper forms the important part of every programme. This greatly strengthens the interest of members and develops power. One of its young members has made a reputation as a contributor to magazine literature, and music is also cultivated.

The president, 1897, is Mrs. A. B. Reid; and the secretary, Mrs. E. Fargo.

The **Woman's Club**, of Racine, was founded in 1896, with committees upon art, history, and literature, philanthropy, and current events. It had a charter membership of seventy-five women, and its miscellaneous programmes have included some of the most interesting questions of the day. The work is largely through original papers, followed by discussion, and a frequent half hour is given to current events or to social interchange. Mrs. M. S. McMurphy was the first elected president, and still (1897) holds the position. The secretary is Mrs. S. M. Morrison.

Waukesha has three active clubs, the **Woman's Club**, with a limited membership of thirty, the **Beacon Lights Reading Club**, and the **Ideal Reading Club**. The **Woman's Club** meets semi-monthly and issues a miscellaneous programme. The **Ideal Club** has devoted its two years of life to events and personages in American history. There is a **Magazine Club** which simply subscribes to periodicals and passes them from one member to another; and a **Shakespeare Club**, composed of young women devoted to Shakespearean study. The **Magazine Club** now adds a literary feature to its work in the form of a literary programme given at fortnightly meetings.

Wyoming

THE club life of women of Wyoming is, as yet, unrepresented in either State or national federation. The earliest literary club seems to have been the Queen Anne, of Cheyenne, which is called the "mother" club.

Other early clubs were: the Fortnightly, the Chopin, the Emerson, the Wednesday Club, and the Alpha. The latter lived a vigorous life for five years, but did not survive the removal of its efficient president, Mrs. Frances E. Warren, to Washington.

The Woman's Club, of Cheyenne, was organized four years ago. Its officers are: President, Mrs. E. Mason Smith; vice-president, Mrs. A. H. Chivington; secretary, Mrs. Mary Costello.

The first two years were given to American authors and a comparative study of "Antigone," "The Spanish Gypsy," and the "Dance of Death." The third year the club began the study of Holland. Recent topics have been Dutch art, artists, and architecture. The completion of this interesting course of study will extend into 1898.

Though small in numbers, this club is public-spirited. From the proceeds of entertainments a free reading-room, well supplied with magazines and other periodicals, was established. Under the auspices of the club, and aided by the subscriptions of the teachers and other generous women, its permanence is assured.

On Arbor Day trees were planted in the new park, and irrigation introduced as a living monument to the Woman's Club, of Cheyenne.

Mrs. E. Mason Smith has served a regular presidential term, four years, under protest, for she is a strong advocate of rotation in office. Mrs. Smith was born in Dubuque, Iowa, but for the past twelve years has resided in Cheyenne, where she has been closely identified with all educational interests. She is a broad-minded, intellectual woman, whose liberal education has been supplemented by extensive travel. It was largely through her influence that the first public library, supported by a library association, was founded. The outgrowth was the present well-equipped county library, of which Mrs. Smith has been the only librarian.

The **Capitol Coterie** has been organized about three years. It has a

membership limited to seven, and a geographical territory extending to four blocks surrounding the capitol. Mrs. H. B. Pattan, president.

The work of the club is the study of French literature and history. The historical period studied during the year 1897 has covered the Revolution, the career of Napoleon, Louis XVIII, Charles X, and Louis Philippe.

The literature has included the lives and writings of most of the prominent women and literary men of France. In November the Coterie entertained the literary clubs of the city and presented "The Ideal French Woman" under various titles and phases.

The Whittier Club, which was organized in 1892, the year of the illustrious poet's death, is a flourishing club and is doing good work.

Its programme embraces a thorough and complete study of England from various standpoints, dating from the earliest history down to the present time. The work is admirably planned and very interesting. The present officers of the club are: President, Mrs. J. G. Cropsey; vice-president, Mrs. W. A. Wyman; secretary, Mrs. E. A. Abry; treasurer, Mrs. W. M. Gilcrest.

Mexico

IN San Luis Potosi, Mexico, there are women's clubs, worked upon the same lines as those of the women of the United States.

The Woman's Literary and Scientific Club has departments in history, literature, and science. The president is Mrs. A. B. de Bradford, who had in 1884 completed a Chautauqua reading course, but had never been a member, nor had any other of the women associated with her, of a woman's club.

The club was organized in August, 1897. The course of studies has included "Imperial Germany," "Social Spirit in America," "Roman Life in Pliny's Time," "Roman and Mediæval Art," "History of Mediæval Europe," and Bryce's "American Commonwealth." The present course—or rather the one outlined for 1898—is the "Rise and Growth of the American Nation.

The studies have been largely controlled by the kind of books it was easy to procure. Money in Mexico is not in parity with that of the States, "and exchange is exorbitant, the duty imposed on sets of books is enormous," says our correspondent, "and limits our work and intellectual life. Yet the club life is more continuous than that elsewhere. There is so little change of season that a summer respite is not required. Winter begins in July, but ice and snow are unknown to it, the air is 'highly rarified and exhilarating as laughing-gas.' The houses are well built, with 'patios,' or square open courts, and chimneys are unknown. The cooking is done with braziers."

There is a large Spanish club in San Luis Potosi, which studies only Spanish history and literature, and a "progressive card club" of women, which meets fortnightly.

"There is a great deal of interest in our club," writes Mrs. Bradford, "in the woman's club movement. Such knowledge as we have has come in fragments. The thought of a great united body of women in clubs, working, striving for the best ends, is inspiring. We want to know all about it."

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